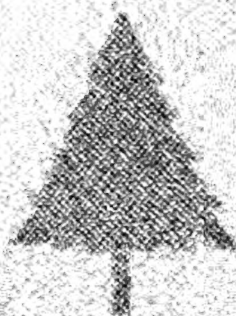


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HISTORY OF THE 363^D INFANTRY



BATTLE CREDITS



ROME-ARNO CAMPAIGN

22 January to 9 September 1944



NORTH APENNINES CAMPAIGN

10 September 1944 to 4 April 1945

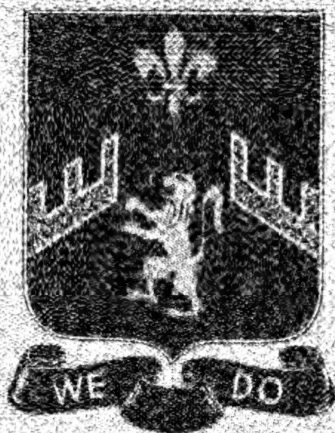


PO VALLEY CAMPAIGN

5 April to 8 May 1945

History of The 363d Infantry

*One Regiment of the 91st
Division in World War II*



By

CAPTAIN RALPH E. STROOTMAN

WASHINGTON
INFANTRY JOURNAL PRESS

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FIRST EDITION

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*TO THE HEROIC, SELFLESS MEN
OF COMBAT TEAM 363
WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES
IN WORLD WAR II*



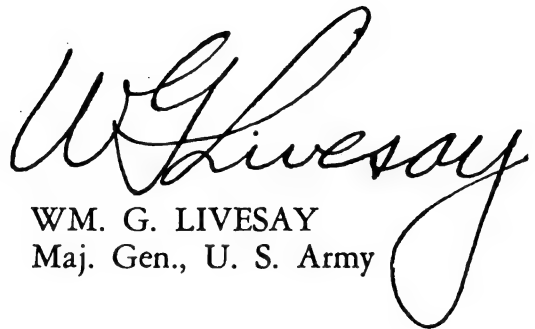
MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM G. LIVESAY
Commanding 91st Infantry Division

To the Officers and Men of the 363d Infantry:

From its first entry into combat near Riparbella, Italy to the conclusion of the campaign on the Isonzo River, the 363d Infantry was an element of my command upon which I could always rely.

Continuously confronted by a determined enemy, the regiment established itself firmly as a reliable fighting unit. Through the heat of summer, the bottomless mud of the mountain valleys, the snow and sleet of an Apennine winter, the regiment carried on tenaciously in the spirit of the Powder River Division.

I have great and humble pride in having had the honor of having such a unit as a part of my command.

A large, elegant handwritten signature in black ink, reading "W. G. Livesay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

WM. G. LIVESAY
Maj. Gen., U. S. Army

Fort Omaha, Nebraska

18 October 1946



To my baby, the 363d Infantry, whom I raised and who, when grown,
did all that a fond father could ask.

Cordially,

PAUL MURRAY
Colonel, U.S. Army, Ret'd.

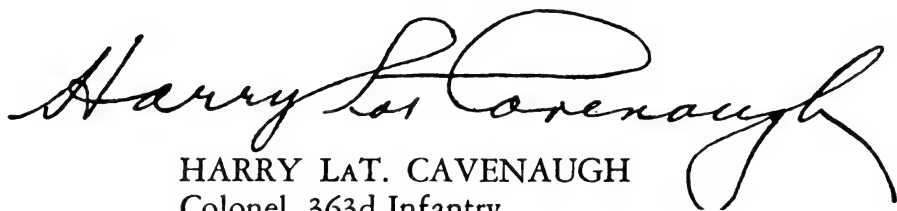
To all Veterans of the 363d Infantry:

It was with considerable perturbation that I joined the 363d Infantry at Camp Lewis, Washington, back in 1917—almost thirty years ago. I had never been on the Pacific Coast and knew nobody out there. What would be the reaction?

It took but a short time to sense that here was a group of men who needed close study—men who could be led but not driven; that these men had something in their make-up that would be invaluable if one could only grasp and hold it—men with self-confidence, patriotism, keen, alert, and with a spirit of adventure that would carry them far. It did carry them far in the nearly two years that we were together in World War I. It really gave one a tremendous lift to be associated with such men.

In World War II I tried to follow the history of the 363d. It was not easy as little was published and that was necessarily vague, but I talked with people who knew what you had done and I was not astonished to hear that you men of a later war showed the same characteristics and gave the same splendid account of yourselves as did those of the first war.

I am prouder of my experience during the two years that I was with you than I am of all my thirty-nine years in the Cavalry. I take my hat off to you; nothing gives me greater pleasure than to meet and shake hands with an old 363d-er. God bless and prosper you all.


HARRY LAT. CAVENAUGH
Colonel, 363d Infantry
(World War I)



COLONEL W. FULTON MAGILL, JR.

He commanded the 363d Infantry from February 1944 until inactivation

To the Officers and Men of the 363d Infantry:

Every regimental commander worthy of his position is convinced that his is the finest regiment in the Army. I am no exception, and I have read nothing in the pages that follow to cause me to think differently. I am intensely proud of the 363d Infantry. I am proud of the men who were the Regiment and of the officers and noncoms who led them. It is not a vain pride, for it is they, not I, who made ours a great regiment. A commander simply plots the course. His men do the rest.

Throughout the more than three years of our existence as a combat unit, you established a record and set a standard unsurpassed in the history of our Army. This was accomplished through hard and intelligent work, a great fighting spirit, complete devotion to duty, and supreme self-sacrifice during the period of combat in Italy, and fine spirit, pride and discipline throughout the trying months of occupation duty after cessation of hostilities. Tempered and strong, our Regiment has become a living thing which will remain in our hearts and memories forever.

This history is the story of many brave men, of individual deeds of sacrifice and heroism, and of the vital role of a smoothly running and efficient combat team that helped win World War II. This is the story of the 363d Infantry Regiment and the units which were so loyal in support of it. It is *your* story.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "W. Fulton Magill, Jr." in a cursive script.

W. FULTON MAGILL, JR.
Colonel, 363d Infantry

CONTENTS

FOREWORD BY THE REGIMENTAL COMMANDER	xi
A NOTE ON INFANTRY TACTICS	xiii
COMPOSITION OF THE 91ST INFANTRY DIVISION	xvi
CHAPTER 1	
THE OLD 363D AND THE NEW	1
CHAPTER 2	
INTRODUCTION TO BATTLE	7
CHAPTER 3	
TO THE ARNO	36
CHAPTER 4	
THE GOTHIC LINE	59
CHAPTER 5	
UP 65	89
CHAPTER 6	
THROUGH THE WINTER	121
CHAPTER 7	
THE PUSH NORTH	170
CHAPTER 8	
THE PURSUIT ACROSS THE PO VALLEY	199
CHAPTER 9	
OCCUPATION	223
CHAPTER 10	
HOME AGAIN	229
HONOR ROLL	232
DECORATIONS, AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS	251
CASUALTY STATISTICS	268
PERSONNEL ROSTER, COMBAT TEAM 363	
363d Infantry	271
347th Field Artillery Battalion	345
Company C, 316th Medical Battalion	351
Company C, 316th Engineer Combat Battalion	352

A NOTE ON INFANTRY TACTICS

The reader who does not know the make-up of infantry units and something of how they go into battle may be helped by this brief description.

An infantry rifle company has a total of some 200 men and 6 officers. The company is divided into 3 rifle platoons, each of about 40 men and 1 lieutenant; and a slightly smaller weapons platoon also with 1 lieutenant; and a headquarters group. The headquarters group consists, of course, of the captain who commands the company and those who help him in training, in approaching battle, and in battle itself—the second-in-command (a first lieutenant), the first sergeant, communication sergeant, mess sergeant, clerk, cooks, messengers, and others who serve the commander directly.

The three rifle platoons are each commanded by a lieutenant who has, as his second-in-command, a platoon sergeant. In each platoon there are three twelve-man rifle squads and a small command group—the lieutenant, the platoon sergeant, and a small number of others. Each of the rifle squads is led by a staff sergeant and the 12 men usually have among them 11 M1 semi-automatic rifles and 1 BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle). All these fighting men may also carry—and usually do in combat—a number of hand grenades and most of them have bayonets to put on their rifles and some have knives.

The company “supporting unit” for the 3 rifle platoons is the weapons platoon which has 2 main subdivisions besides its small headquarters group in which are the commander (a lieutenant), the platoon sergeant, and a small number of others. The subdivisions are the 60mm mortar section with 3 mortars and their crews (squads) and a light machine gun section with 2 guns and their crews.

The rifle companies in an infantry regiment are lettered A, B, C—E, F, G—I, K, L. Companies D, H, and M are heavy weapons companies each containing a number of heavy machine guns and 81mm mortars. Companies A, B, C, D and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, form the 1st Battalion of a regiment; Companies E, F, G, H and Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion form the 2d Battalion; and Companies I, K, L, M and Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion form the 3d Battalion. The “supporting unit” within each battalion is its heavy weapons company.

The 3 battalions (called “rifle battalions”) plus certain regimental units, make up the regiment. These units are Regimental Headquarters, Headquarters Company, the Service Company, the Antitank Company, the Cannon Company, and the Medical Detachment. In the antitank and cannon companies are caliber .50 machine guns, 105mm howitzers,

antitank rocket launchers, and 57mm antitank guns. And in different units throughout the regiment are a number of such weapons as sub-machine guns, hand grenades, and automatic pistols. Actually, the number of weapons in an infantry regiment may differ from time to time and in different war theaters as new weapons are tried out or adopted for general purposes in every theater or for special purposes in a given theater.

Next above the regiment comes the infantry division. Such a division contains 3 rifle regiments and units of several kinds of troops other than infantry to make up a complete combat team of all arms except air, such as a cavalry reconnaissance troop, field artillery battalions, and quartermaster, ordnance, signal corps, medical, and other units.

"Supporting weapons" mean the weapons of high fire power that back up the infantry riflemen, and automatic riflemen of rifle squads and platoons. Supporting weapons are too heavy to be carried by an individual fighting man (except for the light machine gun) and all of them require crews of several men to operate them efficiently. Therefore, supporting weapons are set up in one suitable place and kept there for some time, while the rifle units men will be moving as they fight. The fire of most of the supporting weapons usually goes over the heads of the riflemen to strike enemy targets some distance in front of the rifle units farthest forward in the fight.

Thus, when a given rifle company is in combat, it is supported by its own weapons platoon (light machine guns and 60mm mortars) and it is likely to receive a good deal of help at different times during the battle from heavy machine guns and 81mm mortars within the regiment, from 105mm infantry and field artillery guns, and other sizeable supporting weapons, to include tanks; and also from engineer groups with flame throwers and explosives such as "satchel charges" often mentioned in this book.

In all plans for an attack the ground to be taken is divided by boundaries drawn on the map—usually drawn through features recognizable on the ground itself—thus to prevent the mixing up of units in the confusion of combat as well as to give each unit a specific battle job.

At times in the narrative of this book, it is said that after attacking for several hours or more certain units "took up a defensive position." This might be done at nightfall, for a continuation of an attack at night, unless the enemy is pretty well on the run, usually leads to confusion. Night attacks are often used in modern battle, but they have to be planned very carefully and very simply, consisting mainly of a

thrust straight forward into the enemy area, during which the attackers do not shoot but creep forward to use their bayonets and knives. So at nightfall or at other times when an attacking unit has been fighting hard all day and is, therefore, in a state of some confusion owing to the extreme effort of its advance, or is badly weakened from losses the unit may then "organize the ground for defense." The men still in action are distributed generally around the area for which the unit is responsible in positions of defense, making and using any fortifications of the enemy or natural fortifications of the ground. (The defense is organized to meet an attack from any direction whatever—front, flank, or rear.) Units thus make ready at full speed to fight defensively because it is normal for the enemy to counterattack against our successes. A counterattack is an actual attack, often strong, in which the enemy units move forward to meet our own which may still be advancing or already organized for defense. Counterattacks are a standard defensive method which our infantry itself uses.

The method of advancing in an attack is extremely flexible. Leading attack units usually advanced in "skirmish lines." This simply means that the leading platoons in each attacking company formed a somewhat irregular line, spread well across the area for the capture of which it was responsible, with individual riflemen from five to ten yards apart. Where ground is rough and men can get forward by another method, the skirmish line or parts of it may change into columns—small groups with the men five to ten yards apart, one roughly behind another instead of abreast, as they move forward.

In each rifle squad there are two scouts whose job is to stay somewhat ahead of the skirmish line, examining every possible spot where the enemy may be as they move ahead. In all attack formations including the skirmish line, the trained infantryman advances against a close and vigorous enemy by creeping and crawling, or by short quick dashes, so brief in duration that an enemy rifleman or machine gunner would not have time to shift his aim and fire with any accuracy. It is only when little resistance is experienced that the attacking infantry might advance standing up most of the time.

One other element of the infantry attack needs a brief explanation—the support or reserve. Automatic weapons, mortars, and artillery, bombing and strafing airplanes are spoken of as supporting weapons or units. The word support means something else. It means the part of his unit every leader of infantry troops holds back to use later on when needed, and in battalion or higher units this is called "the reserve." As a rifle company attacks, one of its platoons or, more often,

two (advancing abreast) will be at the very front. The other platoon (or platoons) will be some distance to the rear of the leading units (but usually within sight of them), and the company commander will not put his support platoon into the fight until it is needed. The same is true in battalions and regiments—and divisions and still bigger units.

The commander is thus able to advance his support or reserve to any part of his line where it may be needed. The support and reserves are very necessary, both to continue the drive forward when the initial units are exhausted and to meet counterattacks and other emergencies.

It is not necessary for the reader of this book to have all of this note on tactics memorized but one reading of it will add to the reader's insight of the infantry methods in every fighting theater, not merely the Italian.

COMPOSITION OF THE 91ST INFANTRY DIVISION IN WORLD WAR II

DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND SPECIAL TROOPS

Headquarters Company
91st Reconnaissance Troop
91st Signal Company
91st Quartermaster Company
791st Ordnance (LM) Company
91st Military Police Platoon

DIVISION ARTILLERY

916th Field Artillery Battalion
346th Field Artillery Battalion
347th Field Artillery Battalion
348th Field Artillery Battalion

Brig. Gen. Ralph Hospital
Lt. Col. James E. Shaw, Jr.
Lt. Col. Calvin E. Barry
Lt. Col. Woodrow L. Lynn
Lt. Col. Robert B. Collier
Colonel Rudolph W. Broedlow
Colonel John W. Cotton
Colonel W. Fulton Magill, Jr.
Lt. Col. Paul W. Brecher
Lt. Col. William C. Holley

361ST INFANTRY REGIMENT

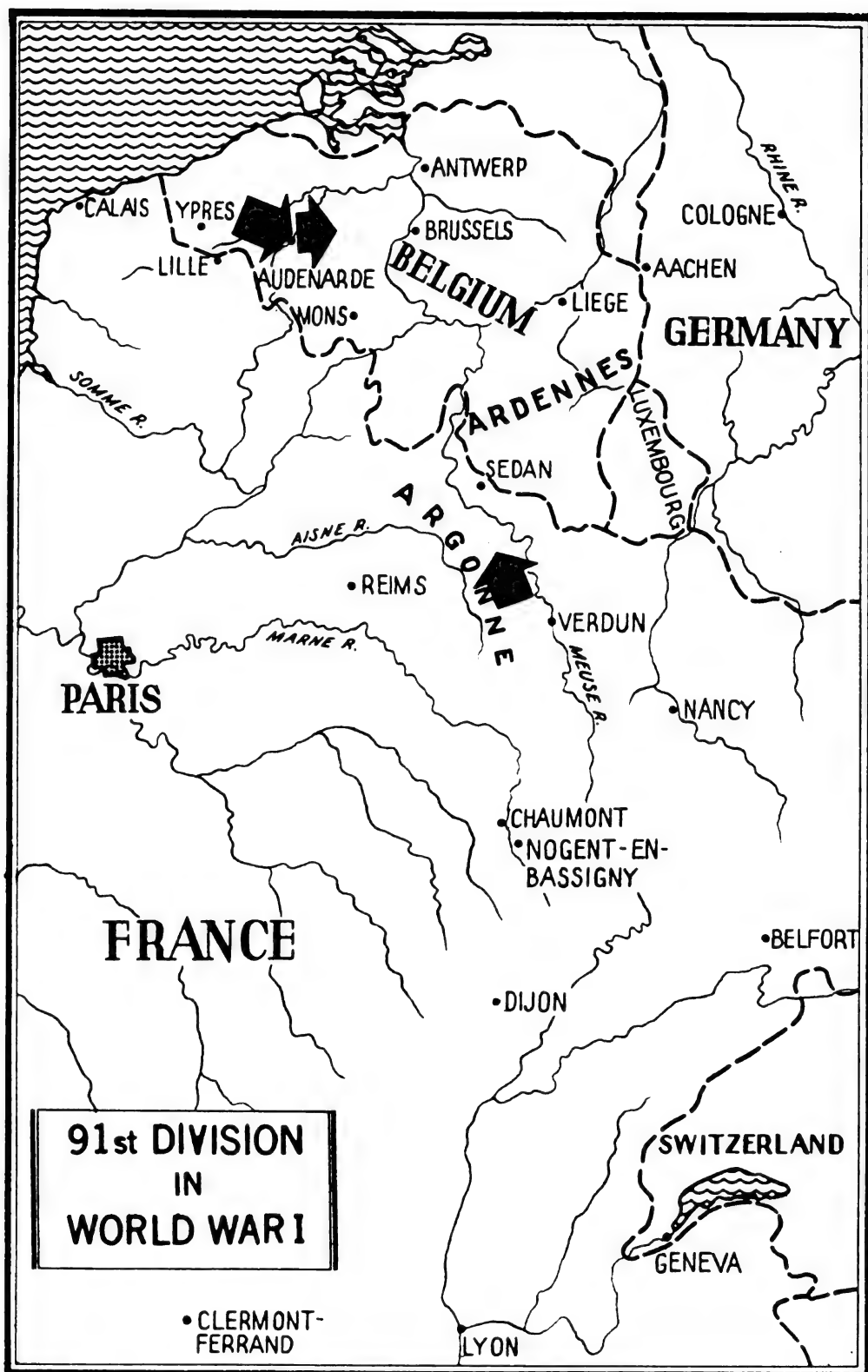
362D INFANTRY REGIMENT

363D INFANTRY REGIMENT

316TH MEDICAL BATTALION

316TH ENGINEER BATTALION

HISTORY OF THE 363^d INFANTRY



CHAPTER 1

THE OLD 363d AND THE NEW

THE 91st Division was organized at Camp Lewis, Washington, in September 1917 of men from California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming—hence the nickname "Wild West Division" and the battle cry "Powder River, Let 'er Buck!"

Set up as a square division, it was composed of two infantry brigades, one field artillery brigade, and some divisional troops. The 181st Infantry Brigade was made up of the 361st and 362d Infantry Regiments and the 347th Machine-Gun Battalion; the 182d Infantry Brigade, of the 363d and 364th Infantry Regiments and the 348th Machine-Gun Battalion. The 166th Field Artillery Brigade was composed of the 346th Field Artillery Regiment (75mm guns), 347th Field Artillery Regiment (4.7-inch guns), 348th Field Artillery Regiment (155mm guns), and the 316th Trench Mortar Battery (6-inch mortars). Divisional Troops consisted of the 346th Machine-Gun Battalion, 316th Field Signal Battalion, 316th Engineer Regiment, Headquarters Troop, and trains.

The maximum authorized strength for the Division was 991 officers and 24,114 men.

On 21 June 1918 the division moved to the ports of Brooklyn, New York, and Philadelphia for embarkation, arriving at various ports in England and Scotland and at Brest, France, in July. After a brief stay at rest camps in Great Britain those units moved to France via Cherbourg and Le Havre and on 6 September found themselves as reserve of the First Army for the St. Mihiel offensive, the purpose of which was to reduce the enemy salients which interfered with railroad communications essential to further offensive operations. This was accomplished.

The Division was not committed, and on 13 September was assigned to the American III Corps, then with the French Army for participation in the Meuse-Argonne offensive, and began the move to Forêt de Hesse, southeast of Vauquois. On the 16th it was assigned to the French IX Corps but remained under the operational control of III Corps.

During the night of 19-20 September 1918, the Division began the relief of the French 73d Division on the main line of resistance in the Aubréville sector east of Vauquois, and on the 20th the First Army issued its field order for the opening of the Meuse-Argonne offensive with the 91st Division, along with the 37th and 79th, assigned to V Corps.

V Corps issued its orders on 21 September for the attack on the 26th to be made with the 182d Brigade (composed of the 79th, 37th and 91st Divisions in line from right to left) the 91st Division to capture Bois de Cheppy and Bois de Véry, and assist in outflanking the Argonne Forest. In the 363d Infantry both 1st and 2d Battalions were on line with the 3d Battalion in Division reserve. The 166th Field Artillery Brigade did not serve with the Division after leaving the United States but functioned as Corps and Army artillery.

The artillery preparation was fired as planned. A smoke screen was put down on the forward positions of the enemy. At 0530 the infantry left the line of departure behind a rolling barrage. In the zone of action of the 182d Brigade, troops of the 363d Infantry advanced from the northwestern edge of Bois de Cheppy toward Véry overcoming stiff resistance at La Neuve Grange Ferme and in Tranchée de la Salamandre. Troops of both the 363d and 364th In-

fantry Regiments arrived in Véry ahead of troops of the 35th Division. The 364th Infantry elements in the front lines were relieved by elements of the 363d Infantry before midnight. During the afternoon the 3d Battalion reverted from Division reserve and advanced to positions on Cote (Hill) 218 taking over front-line positions during the night.

The attack was resumed the following morning at 0930 after reorganization in the Ruisseau de Véry ravine the night of 26-27 September; strong resistance was encountered along the Eclisfontaine-Charpentry road and little progress was made during the forenoon. Later in the evening the advanced elements of the brigade were withdrawn about 200 meters south of the positions held the previous night to permit shelling by Corps artillery as far south as Epinonville. About 1600 the brigade was able to advance; in conjunction with the 35th Division units, the 2d Battalion and Headquarters Company, 363d Infantry, took the enemy in flank south of Eclisfontaine, with several tanks participating in the action. The town and the woods immediately to the north were occupied by the 364th Infantry while the 363d Infantry occupied Les Bouleaux Bois and Cote 231 until 2200 when they were instructed by Division to evacuate so that the area could be covered by Corps artillery during the night. The 363d Infantry held the forward slope of the ravine south of the Eclisfontaine-Charpentry road.

The Division attacked the next morning at 0900 in column of regiments. The 364th Infantry, leading, encountered strong resistance from Sérieux Ferme and Les Bouleaux Bois and the 363d Infantry moved northwest to combat the hostile fire from the exposed flank. By noon Company L, which had been detailed to maintain contact with the 35th Division, had captured Sérieux Ferme and the 364th Infantry had cleared Les Bouleaux Bois. Company L advanced about 500 meters northwest of Sérieux Ferme in the late afternoon with the other companies of the 3d Battalion taking up positions to the right filling up the gap between the 35th Division and the 364th Infantry.

About daylight on 29 September the 3d Battalion, less Company L, was ordered to withdraw from its line north of Sérieux Ferme to the woods in the vicinity of Eclisfontaine. This movement was effected during the morning and left a gap of about one kilometer between Company L which was still in contact with the 35th Division, and elements of the 364th Infantry. Following a passage of lines through the 364th Infantry that same morning, the 1st Battalion, 363d Infantry, followed by Companies A and C, 316th Engineers, as a mop-up force was preparing to attack when the enemy counterattacked at 1300 driving the 35th Division back some three kilometers.

To meet this blow the 2d Battalion, 363d Infantry, which was to have supported the attack of the 1st Battalion, was deployed along with two machine-gun companies on a line running almost due north from Sérieux Ferme across Ruisseau de Mayache, and with the 1st Battalion, 364th Infantry, repelled this serious threat against the left flank of the 91st Division. Company L withdrew to the vicinity of Sérieux Ferme in contact with the 2d Battalion. The 1st Battalion, which had been moving up to pass through the line of the 1st Battalion, 364th Infantry, when the Germans attacked, reached that line about 1600. About 1630 Company D, 363d Infantry, and Companies A and C, 316th Engineer Battalion, in line from right to left, launched an attack from Bois Communal de Baulny against the ridge to the north. These units advanced to a line about 600 meters north of Cierges-Tronsol Ferme driving the enemy north

of Ruisseau de Gesnes. The engineer companies were withdrawn about 1900 to Bois de Baulny and the ground held by them east and southeast of Tronsol Ferme was taken over by Companies A, B, and C, 363d Infantry. Company D withdrew to the northern edge of Bois Communal de Baulny about 2000.

The division was ordered by V Corps to hold an outpost line along the northern edges of Bois Communal de Cierges and Bois Communal de Baulny. On the left of the 363d Infantry was the 361st Infantry.

On 2 October the 2d Battalion, 363d Infantry, less Company H which had been in line along the ridge extending north from Sérieux Ferme to Ruisseau de Mayache, was withdrawn to points south of Eclisfontaine while Company H took up a position on the reverse slope of the ridge on the west side of Bois Communal de Baulny in support of Company D, 348th Machine-Gun Battalion, which was covering the left of the Division's outpost line. On the night of 2-3 October a reconnaissance in force by a patrol of one platoon of Company A and one platoon of the Machine-Gun Company, 363d Infantry, was made as far as the narrow woods about 200 meters north of Tronsol Ferme. Some snipers were driven out but the woods was not held.

On 3 October V Corps ordered a rearrangement of front-line troops by which the entire Corps front was to be held by the 3d and 32d Divisions. Upon relief by the 64th Brigade of the 32d Division by the afternoon of 4 October, the 91st Division moved to Bois de Véry and Bois de Cheppy where it passed to Corps reserve.

Here the Division remained until 7 October when it, less the 181st Brigade, was released from Corps reserve and prepared to move to Nettancourt about 45 kilometers west of St. Mihiel, where the 181st Brigade rejoined it. On 18-19 October the Division arrived in the vicinity of Ypres and on 28 October was assigned to French Sixth Army in Belgium, being placed under the command of French VII Corps.

Upon relief of the French 164th Division south of Waereghem on the night of 29-30 October, elements of the 363d and 364th Infantry Regiments took over the front lines in the sector of the 182d Brigade on the left. Based on Corps order, Division ordered an attack to be made the following day, 31 October, at 0530 with the final objective the Escaut (Scheldt) River north and south of Audenarde.

On the left of the Division the 3d Battalion, 363d Infantry, was to attack with Companies K and I in the assault echelon from right to left. Companies L and M were in support. Companies L and K were subjected to heavy artillery fire while getting into position, and of these two companies, only one platoon of Company K was ready to advance at the prescribed hour. Company L and the remainder of Company K were out of touch with battalion headquarters. However, the battalion attacked on time with Company I and the one platoon of Company K in the assault line and Company M in support. It penetrated the enemy's first position and advanced rapidly to the second position which extended south from Warandeken.

About 0820 Company M was ordered to the front line to the right of Company I. The advance continued rapidly until 1030 when the line was within 500 meters of the first objective. Movement was slow from here on and at 1230 the attacking troops were still short of the first objective. In the after-

noon, however, the objective was gained. During the night liaison was made with the French 128th Division on the left.

The attack continued the next morning at 0630 with the 363d Infantry inclining to the right to keep contact with the brigade on that flank. It soon became evident to the leading troops that the enemy had withdrawn. Friendly inhabitants confirmed this, reporting that he had withdrawn across the Escaut River. Company A advanced on the left flank to furnish combat liaison. Company B became lost as the attack started and did not rejoin the battalion until 0900. Companies C and D led the attack and, meeting no resistance except for a little machine-gun fire on the heights of Oycke, advanced rapidly. By 1030 the leading elements were just west of Oycke and about noon the battalion was in the vicinity of Mooregem; it then moved northeast to Hill 31 overlooking Bevere and sent patrols forward to reconnoiter in the vicinity of Bevere and Audenarde. Patrols were sent to the canal near Oliehoek during the afternoon and night and by 2200 Company C had established an outpost on the line of observation north of Bevere.

French VII Corps issued orders directing the establishing of a bridgehead by the 91st Division at Fort Kezel, east of the river. Two regiments were to be held west of the line Petegemstraat-Melkhoek where they were, until this had been accomplished. On 2 November, after night reconnaissance which determined that all bridges across the river were demolished, the front line was advanced to the river in Audenarde and to the northeast edge of the town by the 1st Battalion, 363d Infantry, with the 2d Battalion occupying the position north of Bevere vacated by the 1st Battalion. The proposed attack across the river was cancelled upon receipt of Corps orders directing the relief of the Division by the French 41st Division on the day and night of November 3.

The Division, together with the attached 53d Field Artillery Brigade, moved to an area near Oostroosebeke eight kilometers northwest of Waereghem where it remained until it moved forward for the attack of 10 November.

Now under control of French XXX Corps, the Division attacked at 0915, 10 November, across the river at Audenarde as part of the French Army's general operation to seize the plateau between the Escaut River and the Dendre River about 30 kilometers farther east. It had in turn relieved the French 41st Division. On the left of the brigade sector, the 363d Infantry began the pursuit of a retreating enemy with its 3d, 2d, and 1st Battalions in column. The advance was held up at 0115, 11 November, when Division was informed by Corps that operations would be postponed pending further notice. At 0910 the leading elements of the 91st Division were ordered to continue the advance, provided no resistance was encountered, and hold the ground reached by 1100.

Subsequent to the Armistice, the Division rested near Audenarde until 18 November when it moved to the Audenhove-Sainte Marie area. On 23 November it moved to the vicinity of Poperinghe where the last elements arrived on 8 December. On 22 December it patrolled the Franco-Belgian frontier west of Poperinghe from Beveren to Warande. On 27 December the Division, still less artillery, moved to the La Ferté-Bernard area in the American Embarkation Center at Le Mans. On 2 January 1919 the 346th Field Artillery sailed from Brest to the United States. On 16 March the Division, less artillery, moved to St. Nazaire, from which port the leading infantry units sailed on 21 March. The last elements of the Division arrived in New York on 29 April 1919.

REACTIVATION

The 363d Infantry of the 91st (Powder River—Let 'er Buck!) Infantry Division had its humble reactivation underneath an oak tree at Fort Benning, Georgia, home of the Infantry School, when its newly appointed Commanding Officer, Col. Paul Murray, assembled the cadre on 15 June 1942.

To the skeleton officer group sent there for a month's schooling after having been assigned to form the Regiment, Colonel Murray outlined the policies and principles which were to be followed "in our allotted space of time until we will be able to satisfactorily take our place on the right of the line." Arriving almost simultaneously with the non-commissioned cadre at Camp White, Oregon, where on 15 August 1942 the 91st Division was reactivated under command of Maj. Gen. Charles H. Gerhardt, the entire group conducted refresher courses to fit themselves further for the training of a combat team. This was climaxed by a 91-mile march on 4-9 September 1942.

By October the men who were to make up that team had reported in, and fourteen weeks of basic military training began. Squad, platoon, and company tactics were followed by battalion and regimental combat team problems. In July 1943, Maj. Gen. William G. Livesay replaced General Gerhardt as division commander. Soon it was September 1943, and the Powder River Division was ready for full-scale maneuvers.

After successfully completing the two months of IV Corps "Bend Maneuvers" in Oregon that fall, the 363d Infantry reported with the rest of the Division to Camp Adair, Oregon, where 700 replacements were received from the 70th Division. These men brought the unit up to strength and final preparations for overseas movement were made.

On 10 April 1944 the first elements of the 363d Infantry sailed from Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia. Ships carrying personnel of the Regiment were the SS *William Few*, SS *William S. Rawle*, SS *Noah Webster*, SS *Warren B. Giles*, SS *Booker T. Washington*, SS *Thaddeus Kowsily*, and SS *Joaquin Miller*. Arriving in the port of Oran, Algeria, in early May, the Regiment began preparations for amphibious training, being joined by its combat team attachments. This phase of training began with preliminary amphibious procedure and progressed through amphibious techniques, assault techniques and assault landings by small units until its culmination. Here battalion landing teams preceded by barrages from 5-inch naval guns and rockets splashed ashore from LCVPs, LCMs, and DUKWs to storm "Ranger Beach" near Arzew, North Africa, and continue inland to secure limited "objectives."

By the middle of June the 363d Infantry was on its way to Italy, landing near Naples at Bagnoli where after two weeks stay it boarded landing craft for the overnight trip to the front lines 250 miles farther north. The vehicles and larger guns went up the peninsula by truck convoy.

Colonel Murray had accomplished his mission; the 363d Infantry was ready to take its place "on the right of the line." It was Colonel Murray's misfortune that he was transferred from the Regiment he had trained so well just as the unit was starting to move overseas. The command of the Regiment passed to Col. W. F. Magill, Jr.

CHAPTER 2

INTRODUCTION TO BATTLE

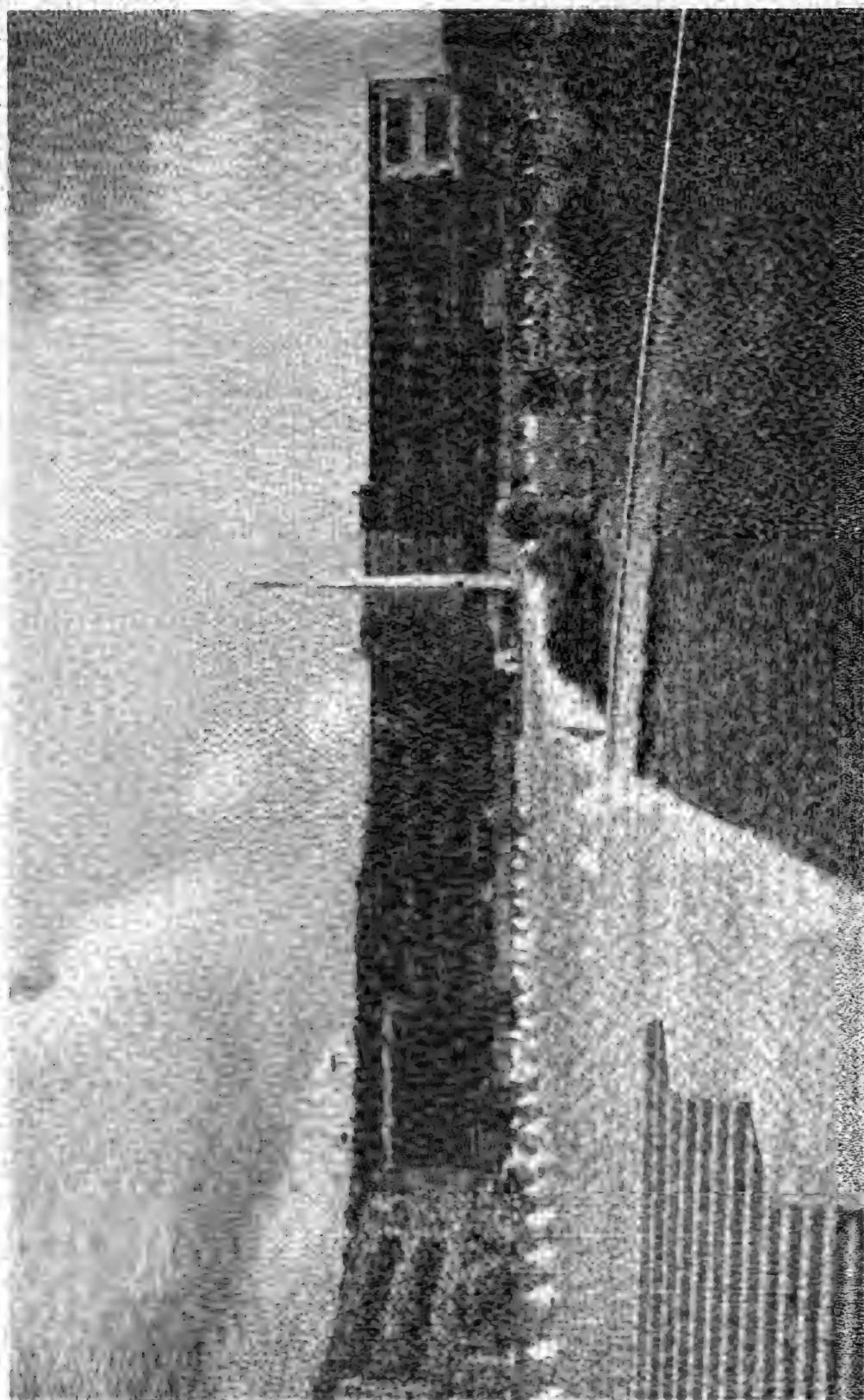
THE AMERICAN Fifth Army led by Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark had fought up the rugged Italian peninsula from Salerno to Cassino, driven a wedge into the beaches of Anzio and Nettuno, and joined forces again after the severe months-long siege of Cassino. It was then pursuing the fleeing German armies which had declared Rome an open city and retreated to the north. Shielded by delaying actions, Kesselring's German forces fell back and back before the aggressive armored exploitation by the Fifth Army. They were shortening their supply lines and lengthening General Clark's, moving to better defensive lines in the mountains where the armor couldn't be used as effectively, regrouping into more compact fighting units. At some points they sold ground dearly, at others they gave it away.

Above Rome the Apennine foothills roll north to the next large water barrier, the Arno River, which flows past the cities of Florence and Pisa before emptying into the Ligurian Sea at Marina di Pisa on the west coast of Italy about halfway up the boot. The Fifth Army, less the three divisions which had been withdrawn in preparation for the landings in southern France, was still pushing northward when, on 30 July 1944, General Clark directed General Livesay to move the 91st Division to an area north of Civitavécchia, the newly captured seaport north of Rome. General Livesay was to have one combat team prepared for immediate movement into the combat area upon arrival at Civitavécchia. The 363d Infantry, with the 347th Field Artillery Battalion; Company C, 316th Engineer Battalion; and Company C, 316th Medical Battalion, made up the designated combat team.

In anticipation of the imminent entry into combat a number of officers and men selected from the 363d Infantry had been attached to the 34th Infantry Division several days before the Regimental movement. Battalion commanders with their staffs accompanied platoon leaders and their sergeants into the battle area, observing the operations of leaders in the action against the enemy.

Moving from Bagnoli, the 363d Combat Team sent the motors overland past the scenes of Cassino and Anzio through Rome to a bivouac area along Highway 1, the coast road, about six miles north of the town of Montalto. The foot troops moved by water in landing craft from Naples to Civitavécchia and were shuttled to the new bivouac area by motor.

Before the arrival of the foot troops in the area new orders were received to move Combat Team 363 to the north for attachment to the 34th Division. Road clearances were obtained and the first march units were scheduled to start immediately upon the arrival of the first foot troops. Hence, the first troops to arrive from the port of Civitavécchia were immediately loaded into waiting vehicles and at 1800 on 2 July the movement to a forward assembly area began. An advance party went forward to IV Corps Headquarters and to the 34th Division. Colonel Magill reported to the advance CP of Fifth Army and arrived in the assembly area at 0200, 3 July. Major Beal reported back from 34th Division Headquarters with the order that the combat team would move on 3 July to an area in the vicinity of 34th Division Headquarters just south of the Cecina River, which had just been crossed by the 34th Division. In the meantime Lieutenant Colonel Harry M. Grizzard, Regimental Executive Officer, at Montalto, was gathering all of the elements of the combat team and loading them on vehicles borrowed from Division and pushing the troops northward.



Formerly a university (Collegio Costanza Ciano), then a headquarters, and later replacement depot for the Germans, Bagnoli became a staging area for the 91st Division.

At dawn 3 July, guides and advance parties were sent forward to lead the troops into the new assembly area and instructions were sent to the rear to give the moving columns orders on the new destination. As the columns neared the town of Cecina they found traffic blocked for miles as the 34th Division troops were swarming across the river ford at that point. In the midst of this confusion another change in orders arrived sending the combat team to an assembly area on the north bank of the Cecina River about 3000 yards west of the village of Casaglia. Messengers scurried to head off moving troops and re-route them. Supply and service vehicles had to be found and informed of the changes. The Regimental officers and noncoms with units of the 34th Division had to be located and instructed to report immediately to Regiment.

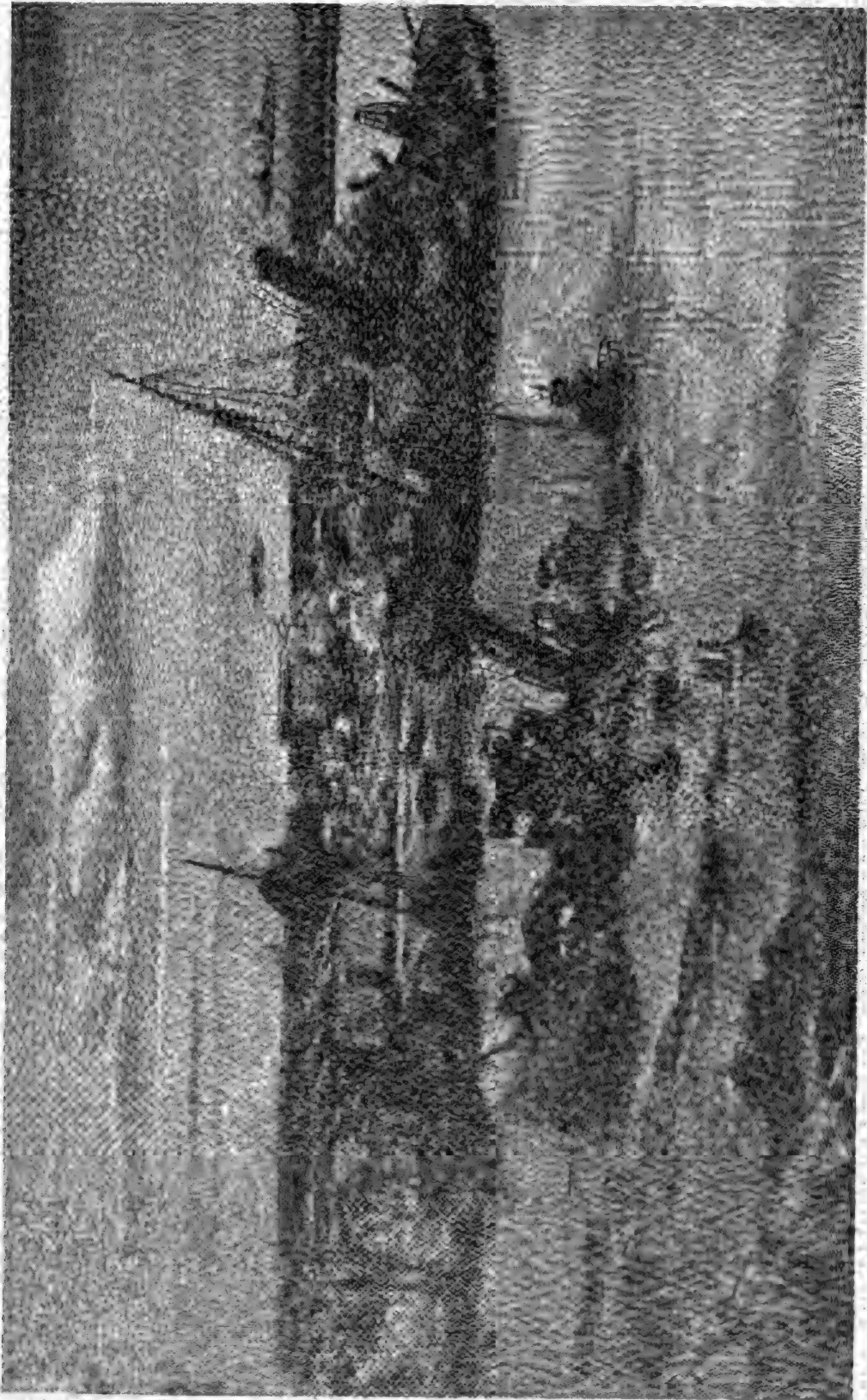
At 2300 3 July the combat team with ammunition and supplies was completely closed in the new area under hostile artillery fire for the first time, which was exacting its toll of casualties. What next? There was not long to wait and worry. About midnight the orders came. Combat Team 363 would move out at daylight as part of Task Force Ramey operating on the exposed right flank of the 34th Division. General Ryder, commanding the 34th Division, and Brigadier General Rufus Ramey, commanding the task force, called at the Regimental command post. To permit the time for the complete publication and distribution of signal operation instructions the time of departure from the assembly area was set at 0900, 4 July.

This was the beginning of the long road north. From 1 July to the night of 3 July the combat team had moved from the vicinity of Naples to the Cecina River. Cutting through the confusion and uncertainty that normally accompanies rapid changes of plans, the team had gathered itself and was confident and ready. Here they held company commander and staff meetings, issued 450 maps of the area per battalion and at 2300 received the warning order from Regiment to be prepared to move out by foot at 0600 the next day. At 0300 Major Floyd V. Pinnick, Regimental S-3, called and notified the battalion commanders that H-hour had been set forward three hours to 0900. Here Lieutenant Colonel Ralph N. Woods, who had joined the Regiment at Bagnoli and had assumed command of the 1st Battalion, met his staff for the first time.

Forty-five minutes later the Regimental field order arrived at battalion headquarters directing that Combat Team 363, operating as Task Force Ramey under control of the 34th Division, would move at H-hour, now 0900 Tuesday morning, to a forward assembly area. It would prepare to attack in a column of battalions, 3d Battalion leading as advance guard, and seize the regimental objective, the high ground overlooking the town of Chianni 2000 yards to the east.

Antitank Company was in mobile reserve in case of an enemy armored thrust, with Cannon Company supporting from positions just north of the Cecina River. Both were ready to move forward on call depending upon the rapidity of advance of the foot elements.

The main effort of the Regiment was made along the left of the sector where a north-south range of hills formed a ridge line increasing in height as it led away from the river valley. Most of the Regiment's thirteen intermediate objectives were part of this stairway of hills. Objective 1, Hill 504; 2, Hill 457; 3, Hill 506; 4, Hill 507; 5, Mt. Vitalba; 6, 557-meter Montalone; 7, Poggio Casaccio; 8, Mt. Vaso (Hill 634); 9, Poggio Castagnolo (Hill 601); 10, Poggio Prunici and Rostona Ridge; 11, an unnamed 300-meter knoll on the



The port of Civitavecchia. (Sketch by MacLellan)



Men of the 363d Infantry trudge up the dusty road toward Riparbella during the first day of combat. This road was ten months long.

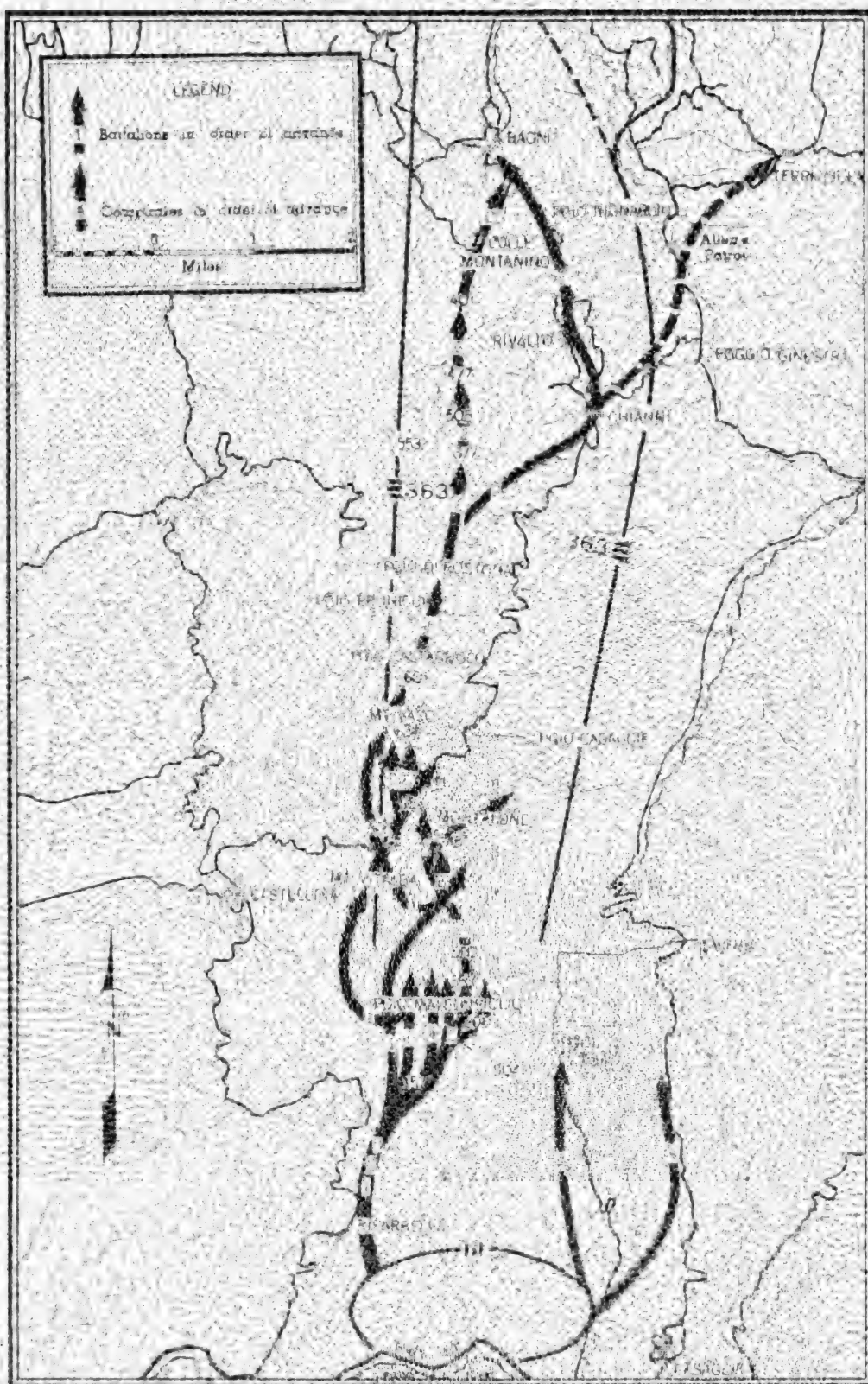
right of the sector; 12 and 13, portions of the high ground west of Chianni, containing Hills 553, 505 and 477. With this high ground overlooking Chianni taken, the town, which was in the 363d Infantry sector, would presumably fall of its own weight, untenable to the Germans.

By 0700 that morning the signal operation instructions were distributed; the radio nets were to open at H minus 30. The advance Regimental command post was in the march column at the head of the 2d Battalion, while the rear installation remained in the assembly area just north of the river and Highway 68.

Leaving behind all impedimenta except weapons, ammunition, and combat packs, the Regiment jumped off, the leading element crossing the initial point at 0900, heading for the forward assembly area some three miles to the north.

On the morning of 4 July prior to the jump-off of the Regiment, the 2d Platoon of Company A, under Lieutenant Marcus L. Youngs, was attached to the 776th Tank Destroyer Battalion which was covering the exposed right flank of the 34th Division as it moved north from the Cecina River. At this time the tank destroyers were operating to the right of Task Force Ramey, slightly north of the town of Casaglia.

That night the remainder of Company A, commanded by Captain Nicholas T. Barry, moved from the 1st Battalion assembly area on the river to another area a mile northwest of Casaglia along the most western of two roads running north along parallel north-south ridges, closing about 0200. Here they also joined the 776th Tank Destroyer Battalion to act as infantry support to the tank



From the Cecina River to Bagni

destroyer advance, to prevent enemy antitank grenadiers and bazookamen from knocking out any of the TDs.

The plan was this: The tank destroyer battalion was divided into two armored columns which would move north along the two roads on the two ridge lines and join again near the town of Miemo, four miles to the north where the roads came together again. Each column would have its infantry protection—the 2d Platoon of Lieutenant Youngs reinforced to lead the right column, the left column to be led by the remainder of Company A.

At 0600, 5 July, the forces began moving out. The western column which contained Company A less the 2d platoon was disposed as follows: one platoon of Company A leading on foot, followed by two reconnaissance cars, four light tanks, and four tank destroyers upon which the remainder of the company rode. Captain Barry had had no opportunity to get in touch with Lieutenant Youngs since the latter's platoon had moved out of the river assembly area the previous morning.

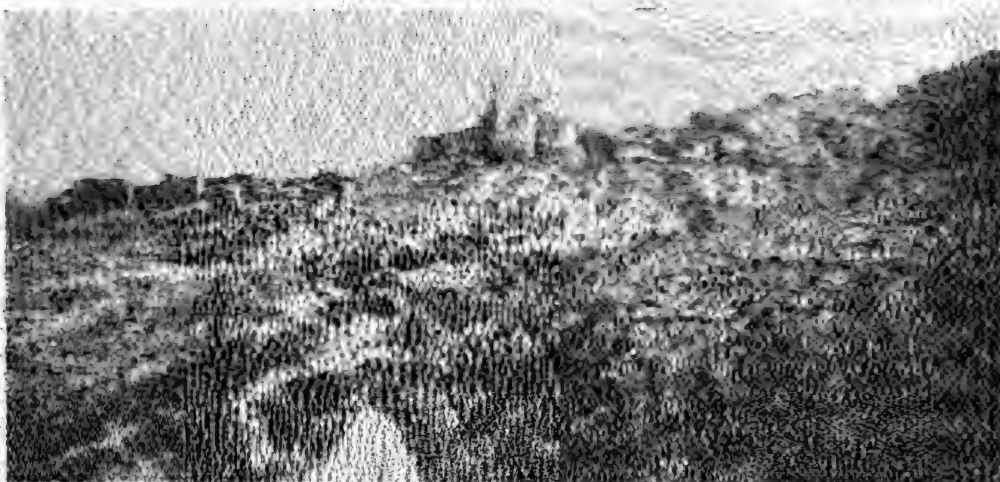
This column, preceded by advance scouts, moved up the unimproved road for an hour and a half without meeting any resistance, but, knowing they were getting close to the enemy, Captain Barry sent a small group forward to outpost while the tired men in the column took a break. Another patrol was sent out to check the firing which could be heard on the left. (This was the 3d Battalion, 363d Infantry, fight at Poggio Malcousiglio described later.)

After the break, the advance guard under Lieutenant Joseph W. Stepp proceeded 200 yards forward where they saw several German soldiers around the farmhouse Pode il Casino. Again halting the column, Stepp motioned Captain Barry forward to get a better look from a small cut in the road where he was then located. Barry moved up to the cut, still couldn't see very well, and began to move up to the driveway leading to the house when the Germans there, in addition to those on the high slope to the north, opened fire. Barry went down in an exposed position seriously wounded by machine-pistol fire from Pode il Casino.

The remainder of the column hit the dirt to take advantage of the meager cover as the enemy small-arms fire continued to pour into them from the high ground to their immediate north. Private First Class Donnie B. Hall, one of the company aid men, ran from the rear of the column, crossed into the machine-gun and rifle fire, carried Captain Barry to a more covered position and gave first aid. He was evacuated by litter a short time later.

Lieutenant Boyd A. Blair, the Executive Officer of Company A, assumed command. The decision was made to push the company on to the nose of the hill extending from northwest of the farm to the southeast, and there dig in; this in order to save what was left of the point. Just as the company began to dig in, an intense enemy artillery barrage was laid in their area which continued in varied intensity for two hours. The men could not withdraw nor could they protect themselves to any degree by digging in. Before the fire lifted and the column could extricate itself, 7 men were killed and 25 wounded. Private First Class Hall treated the majority of these casualties, working continuously without taking cover himself from the enemy fire, although he carried at least seven of his patients from the spot where they had been wounded to positions where they were more protected until being evacuated.

This area remained in enemy hands for the next three days, thus leaving the right flank of the 363d Infantry open to enemy observation and fire.



Chianni, first objective of the Regiment, was taken 13 July 1944. The Partisans offered to clear the town for the infantry.

The 368th Infantry had been attacking almost northeast with its right flank unprotected, leaving a gap between it and the 88th Division on the right. This was where the 363d Infantry had been thrown in. The area of the 363d Infantry had not been mopped up and it was deemed advisable to occupy the high ground, or at least to investigate it, to make certain that it was not occupied by small isolated groups of enemy who had been by-passed by units to the right and left. This explains why three of the Regimental objectives were located to the rear of the proposed forward assembly area, and also the approach march formation taken up by the unit.

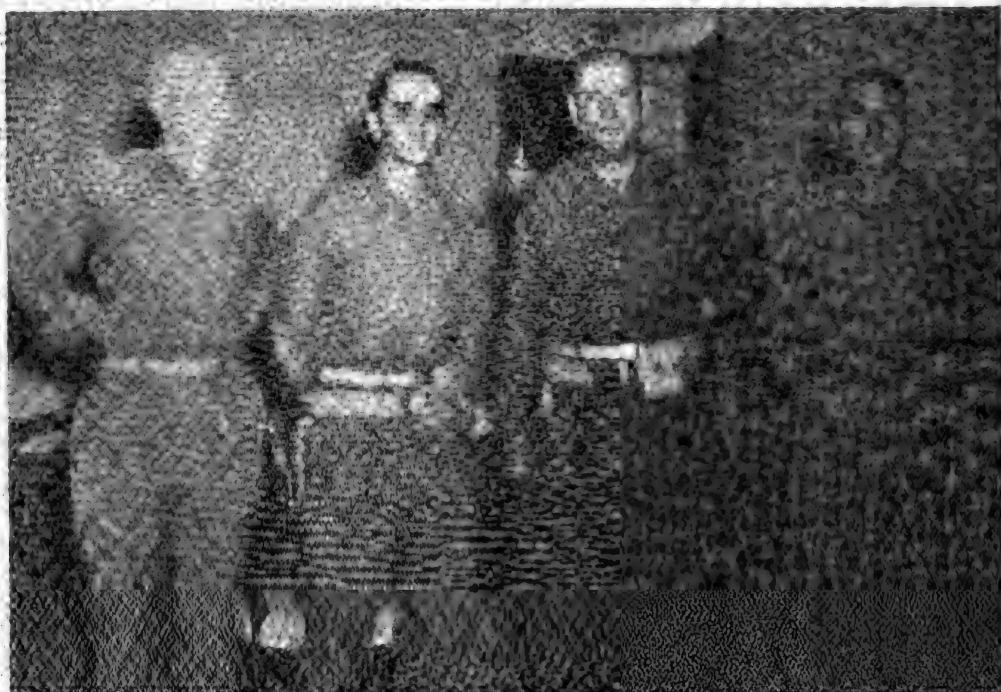
As the main attack of the Regiment moved up a winding dirt road which was little more than a trail, the point platoon of Captain Raymond H. Stewart's Company K (led by Lieutenant George W. Floyd) met no resistance until it had advanced approximately 4000 yards. Here the leading elements received their baptism of fire—artillery and mortar fire from positions located near Objective 3, Hill 506, to their right front. By this time, 1110, the point was just approaching Objective 2, Hill 457. Company I, commanded by Captain Willie P. Kriel, left its second-place position in the column and moved around the west and north side of the hill while the remainder of the column continued its advance north, passing the hill to the east.

At 1420 first close contact was made with the enemy by the leading elements of Company K when they received light small-arms fire from their right flank at a distance of 200 yards from the vicinity of Hill 553.

Company I, which was still attacking to the left of the column, moved steadily forward and took Objective 4, Poggio Malcousiglio, within half an hour. Company K eliminated slight resistance to its front, capturing the Regiment's first three prisoners and joining Company I on Poggio Malcousiglio.

By 1500 the ridge was organized under friendly artillery protection placed on enemy-held Hill 553 on the right flank. The battalion command post set up in an abandoned farmhouse just to the rear of the companies in a sniper-infested area. At 1745 the rear command post on the river closed out, joining the forward about the same time K rations arrived and were distributed to the companies.

Six more prisoners were taken, two by Company I and four by Company K.



Colonel Magill, Regimental Commander; Lt. Colonel Murphy, CO, 2d Battalion; Lt. Colonel Woods, CO, 1st Battalion; and Lt. Colonel Long, CO, 3d Battalion.

to make a total of nine, in addition to approximately 20 enemy killed by 2110. The 3d Battalion lost one Company M man, killed by sniper fire in the area near the battalion command post.

A meeting of battalion commanders was being held at the Regimental command post while the companies set up a perimeter defense for the night, harassed by enemy 88s. At this meeting the order was given for the continuance of the attack to the north the following day, 5 July. When darkness fell on the first day of combat the 3d Battalion was holding and making preparations to continue the attack to the north the next morning. Company M was digging machine-gun and mortar positions to support the rifle companies in their advance when twenty enemy shells landed in the company area, one making a direct hit among the members of a machine-gun platoon. One man had both legs blown off and two others were also seriously wounded.

Technician Fifth Grade Arthur Rocco, a company aid man, was one of the latter, having suffered a severe shoulder wound. In spite of this and the fact that the artillery shells were still falling less than 30 yards away, Rocco went to the aid of the other men without even first dressing his own wound. The man who had lost both legs soon died, although Rocco applied tourniquets and gave him morphine. Turning to the other man, Rocco gave him morphine and bandaged him up, then called for another aid man to help him bandage his own shoulder.

This done, Rocco walked a quarter of a mile back to the aid station in the dark, refusing to be evacuated himself at this time, led litter squads back for the wounded and dead men, then guided them back to the aid station. Rocco consented to being evacuated but it took a direct order from the battalion surgeon.

During the night the perimeter defense was not molested by the enemy although the 3d Battalion suffered eleven men wounded by the enemy artillery, two each in Companies I and L, three in Company K, and four in Company M, which also had another man killed.

While an aerial reconnaissance of the Regimental objective and the town of Chianni went on overhead the Regiment resumed the attack in the same column formation used the day before with the 2d Battalion echeloned to the right rear. The leading 3d Battalion crossed the line of departure at 0600, and advanced 500 yards under small-arms fire by 0700 as they moved down the forward slope of Poggio Malcousiglio.

Meanwhile, snipers and small parties of enemy who had infiltrated during the night began a constant harassing fire to the rear of the leading companies, I and K. One platoon of Company L was committed in the rear to clear out all these small sniper groups. At the same time Company F was ordered to move to the right flank of the 3d Battalion to secure Hill 519, the source of most of the fire which was delaying the advance, then move north along the ridge to Hill 506, protecting the exposed right flank of the Regiment.

The heavy volume of automatic-weapons fire holding up the attack was from the front of Company K, with Company I getting it in the flank from that area to their right front.

By 0700 Company I had not advanced more than the original 500 yards from the jump-off line and was involved in a stiff fire fight which split the company, wounded Lieutenant Edmund B. Piasecki, and grew to such proportions that Captain Kriel found it advisable to commit his reserve platoon.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Colonel Murphy's 2d Battalion, which had been closely following the 3d Battalion, cut off the route of march, taking a trail which led to the right of the committed battalion, with the mission of protecting the Regiment's right flank.

Companies G and E, under Captain Edward J. Conley and Thomas K. Franks, respectively, occupied Hill 553, extending the 3d Battalion line to the east. Company F, under Captain Eugene E. Crowden, continued east 500 yards to secure Hills 506 and 519 then moved north to anchor the right flank.

After Company E had attacked and taken that portion of Hill 506 which was assigned to them, they received orders from Lieutenant Colonel Murphy to dig in and hold. A few minutes later, as was the custom with terrain they were forced to vacate, the Germans began to shell the hill with mortar and artillery, wounding four Company E men.

Sergeant Fred Reynolds, attached to the 1st Platoon as aid man, had managed to dig himself a good slit trench and used it when the barrage began. However, when he heard the cry of "Medics!" he left the cover without hesitating and ran toward one of the wounded. While exploding shells sprayed him with gravel and once knocked him down, Reynolds worked on four injured men who were in the open about 75 yards apart. As Reynolds finished bandaging the last man he saw a fifth go down from a shell fragment about 150 yards away. After dragging his patient to cover, the sergeant picked up his kit and started toward the latest casualty through the shelled area. When Reynolds had covered about half the distance to the wounded man, he was killed by a direct hit from a mortar shell.

Corporal James D. McIlhargey and Private First Class William Turner, both Company G litter bearers, received word that there were three wounded men

of Company G near the top of Hill 506 who had not yet received medical attention. The two proceeded up the rugged wooded trail to the top of the hill where they encountered moderate artillery and heavy small-arms fire. First Sergeant Virgil O. Eckroat of Company G pointed out the wounded men.

McIlhargey and Turner reached the men and administered first aid before beginning to evacuate them from the hill. As they helped the first two down they were fired at several times by an enemy sniper hidden on the wooded slope, but reached the aid station safely. Returning for the third wounded man they took a different route, and had almost reached the top of the hill when they were caught in the cross fire of two German snipers, one armed with a rifle, the other with a machine pistol. They crawled into a ditch to escape the fire but drew fire each time they attempted to advance or exposed themselves in any way. In spite of this the two medics decided to crawl out of the ditch, try to outflank the snipers and reach the wounded man by another route. In attempting to leave the ditch McIlhargey was hit in the chest by one of the sniper's rounds. Turner gave immediate first aid, but the corporal died within a few minutes. Later making a break for it, Turner got around the snipers and succeeded in evacuating the third man alone.

While Companies E and G were involved in the fire fight which extended into their zone, Company F was also meeting strong resistance from enemy entrenched 400 yards north of Hill 506 near a group of farm buildings on the forward slope. In the battle for the houses which lasted from 1400 until 1730 the company was pretty badly cut up, half of one platoon and two-thirds of a second becoming casualties from the strong small-arms fire in addition to medium and 170mm concentrations which the enemy poured on the attack. Lieutenant Ollie W. Reed was killed by this 170mm fire. Company F, however, was exacting a heavy toll from the Germans at the same time. When the position was finally occupied at 1730, it was found that the Germans had left 15 dead and 3 wounded behind. No prisoners other than the wounded were taken.

Meanwhile information was received at Regiment that Hill 675 (Mt. Vitalba) had been taken at 1430 by the 2d Battalion, 168th Infantry, 34th Division just outside the left boundary of the Regiment. With this high ground taken Colonel Magill received orders at 1700 from General Ryder, 34th Division commander, to disengage from the fire fight and to move around to the west, relieving the friendly troops already on Mt. Vitalba, thus being in the best strategic position to expedite an attack on Hill 634 planned for 0600 the following morning. This move squeezed out the 168th Infantry sector, which was absorbed by the 133d Infantry on the left and the 363d Infantry on the right.

With these orders and the coming of darkness Wednesday night the 3d Battalion pulled out following the trail southwest on Ridge 550 which ran west and rose gently to 600 meters. Along the path running atop this ridge line, the 3d Battalion found the 2d Battalion, 168th Infantry, dug in and relieved them. The ridge was part of the Mt. Vitalba or Hill 675 land mass but not the highest part. No troops had been to the crest as yet. This was to be a coordinated attack with the 2d Battalion, 363d Infantry, which had not moved after taking over the position on the right the afternoon before and assaulting Hill 507 from where a good deal of the enemy resistance was located. On the left the 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry, was regrouping and preparing to move

northwest down the next ridge line into Castellina while the 2d Battalion, 168th Infantry, on the right of that regiment's sector would cut the Castellina-Chianni road just northwest of Mt. Vitalba where it climbed the 363d Infantry ridge.

The 3d Battalion jumped off at 0645 the following morning in a column of companies, Company L leading, followed in order by the advance observation and command post groups and Company I. Company K remained in position to support by fire in addition to covering the flank during the attack. The 1st (machine gun) Platoon of Company H was in close support of Company L; the 2d was attached to Company K. All Company M mortars were in firing position immediately behind the ridge used as the line of departure. The battalion's mission: to seize and occupy Mt. Vitalba.

Meeting no resistance at all, with the exception of one sniper who was killed, Company L advanced rapidly up the southern slope of Hill 675, reaching the top at 1100 without casualties. By noon, the observation and command post groups followed by Company I had the hill well occupied. Advance patrols from Company L which had been reconnoitering to the front reported minefields and booby traps on the northwest slope of the hill.

Lieutenant Colonel Long, commanding the 3d Battalion, received orders at 1100 to move on to the next hill of the ridge line, Hill 553. While companies K and M were displacing forward to Mt. Vitalba this order was given to the company commanders and at 1220 Company L led down the forward slope of Mt. Vitalba in a column of platoons: 3d, 2d, Weapons, 1st, under supporting fire from Company K and Company M from their new positions on Mt. Vitalba. Both machine-gun platoons of Company M remained there to give planned fires on the two draws near Hill 553, one just northeast, the other just southeast.

As Company L started moving down the forward slope enemy observers spotted them and began directing artillery on them. The company deployed further and hurried the advance. Thus through the scrub underneath many men became separated from the main body. At the base of the northern slope the advancing troops joined the first decent road they had seen since leaving Highway 68 and the Cecina River five miles to their rear. This was a macadam two-lane road coming east up the ridge from the little town of Castellina which was about a mile due west of Mt. Vitalba. Just north of the hill the road turned north following the ridge line along which the 3d Battalion was attacking, cut around Mt. Vaso to the east, and wound its way through the mountains to the next large settlement, Chianni, in the vicinity of the Regimental objective, another five miles to the north.

Captain Draney's men joined this good road where it made the turn north on the ridge and was met by a cattle trail coming in on the east side of the road. Here at road junction 509 were two farm buildings which were being pounded by the supporting artillery that Draney now ordered lifted to Hill 553. No resistance was met here, so the company continued north on both sides of the road taking advantage of what meager cover and concealment were available. Some sniper fire was received and the company killed one German, by-passing what others were in the area.

As they left the farmhouses behind and moved up the ridge line, Mt. Vaso loomed to their immediate front. Unquestionably this huge cone-shaped mass of rock and scrub growth was used as a German observation post. In spite of concealment measures taken by the advancing troops the terrain was such that



Men of the 363d Infantry take off their packs and dig in during a break on their way to Mt. Vaso.

enemy observers could not help but spot the attackers and bring artillery and mortar fire down upon them. Captain Draney rushed his men through the barrages, which varied in intensity, in small groups. Captain Kriel's Company I followed in the same manner.

By 1400 6 July, Company I was on Hill 553 organized and dug in with the 3d Platoon on the left, the 2d Platoon on the right, the 1st and Weapons Platoons in support. Captain Kriel moved Company I up to occupy the left of the hill in contact with Draney, and the front was outposted by both units.

To the left of the 363d Infantry sector the 3d Battalion of the 168th Infantry was reported to be approaching the Castellina-Chianni road, thus putting 363d Infantry's most advance elements 800 yards farther north than troops in the sector on their immediate left. Meanwhile the 2d Battalion had attacked north and slightly east across the Sterza stream bed, a steep ravine which made rapid progress impossible, and had received more than their share of the German artillery which enemy observers on Mt. Vaso were pouring on in a vain attempt to stop the coordinated attack. Shortly after Mt. Vitalba had fallen to the 3d Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Murphy's 2d Battalion had climbed up the rough slopes of Hill 507 which, now that they were on a reverse slope, protected them somewhat from the German artillery. At 1145 Lieutenant Colonel Murphy called Colonel Magill and informed him that his battalion had secured Hill 507, and that the artillery had let up appreciably. At the same time the observation post from Hill 550 could see a white flag being waved a thousand yards over on the right flank and approximately 100 Germans withdrawing to the northwest along the trail about a mile to the right front. Lieutenant Colonel Murphy received orders to move to the right side of Hill 553 to the right rear of the 3d Battalion, and instructions that the 1st Battalion in reserve would move up and occupy the ridge on which the 2d Battalion now was.

While Captains Draney and Stewart were rushing their men through the

artillery barrages along the road leading to Hill 553, Companies E, F, and G led by Captains Franks, Crowden, and Conley, respectively, were doing the same thing on the right along the trail which led off the western slope of Hill 507 and joined the Castellina-Chianni road at the farmhouses. Before reaching the houses, however, the 2d Battalion redeployed and cut off the trail in a northeasterly direction along the ridge which would take them to the east side of Hill 553 and to Montalone, keeping the 3d Battalion on their left. There was no physical contact between the two leading battalions at this time although both were controlled by radio and telephone by Colonel Magill, as was the reserve 1st Battalion which had been following the 2d Battalion in a column of companies. It had occupied Ridge 461 when the 2d Battalion cut off down the nose to Hill 553 and Montalone.

Once Hill 553 and Montalone were secured, a period of reorganization was necessary while awaiting further orders. All the companies had been subjected to sporadic artillery fire varying in intensity most of the day and during the normal dispersion to avoid casualties many men had become separated from their units in the tangled undergrowth. Lieutenant Copeland, Weapons Platoon leader of Company L, went back to bring up those men who had become separated. This reorganization, under enemy mortar and artillery fire directed from Mt. Vaso, showed that the leading 3d Battalion companies now numbered about 60 men each on the hill, while the 2d Battalion was in better shape with about 175 men per leading company. One 14-man counterattack was made against Company L while they were reorganizing on Hill 553 but it was driven off by BAR and light-machine gun fire.

At 1630 Colonel Magill reported to General Ramey, commander of the task force, the position of the forward elements of the Regiment. After a consultation with General Ryder, 34th Division commander, Colonel Magill ordered Lieutenant Colonel Long to continue the advance and capture Hill 634, Mt. Vaso, immediately.

Lieutenant Colonel Long's plan was to move Companies L and I in that order along the left side of Hill 553 through a draw and approach Mt. Vaso from the southwest. Companies K and M would continue to support by fire from Mt. Vitalba. The 2d Battalion would be located with Company F on the right side of Hill 553, Companies E and G on Ridge 461 moving on Montalone. The 347th Field Artillery Battalion, which had been paving the way throughout the advance, would continue to place fire in front of the leading elements.

At 1700, 6 July, Company L moved out, followed at 1730 by Company I. As the leading company approached cone-shaped Mt. Vaso, a counterattack was launched from the top by the defending Germans. Captain Draney ordered the supporting artillery lifted to cover the area of the attack and also placed 60mm mortar fire from his weapons platoon on the suspected strongpoints. The company climbed the rough slope firing as they went, driving back the counterattack and snipers with grenades and small-arms fire.

During this attack the 3d Platoon was hit especially hard by artillery fire which caused many casualties, including the platoon leader, Lieutenant Johnston, and completely disorganized the platoon. It was later brought forward by the Weapons Platoon leader, Lieutenant Copeland.

That afternoon, Captain Paul J. Maloney, 2d Battalion Surgeon, with two of his aid men, made up packboards of blood plasma and other vital supplies necessary to save the lives of men who would be wounded in the assault of Mt.

Vaso. He then led the way through the German observation and fire, establishing the forward aid station in a deserted farmhouse standing on the bare knoll between Hills 553 and 634.

This position was among the most forward elements of the line companies and although it was not the normal position for an aid station it was better than a less advanced position because enemy fire on the exposed flanks had halted evacuation of the wounded. Enemy observation which covered the house on three sides so blanketed the routes of approach and evacuation that any movement in either the farmyard or in the underbrush drew enemy concentrations of mortar, artillery and sniper fire.

After the attack started and the casualties began flowing in from both the 2d and 3d Battalions, Maloney and his men worked steadily for 70 hours to treat 96 casualties. During the three days of costly and bitter fighting they furnished expert medical attention to the two battalions. A trip to the well in the farmyard, the only source of water for the station, was necessary many times a day and each trip brought down observed mortar fire. In addition to operating their aid station the aid men and Captain Maloney frequently went into the heaviest fighting on the hill to give care to the seriously wounded.

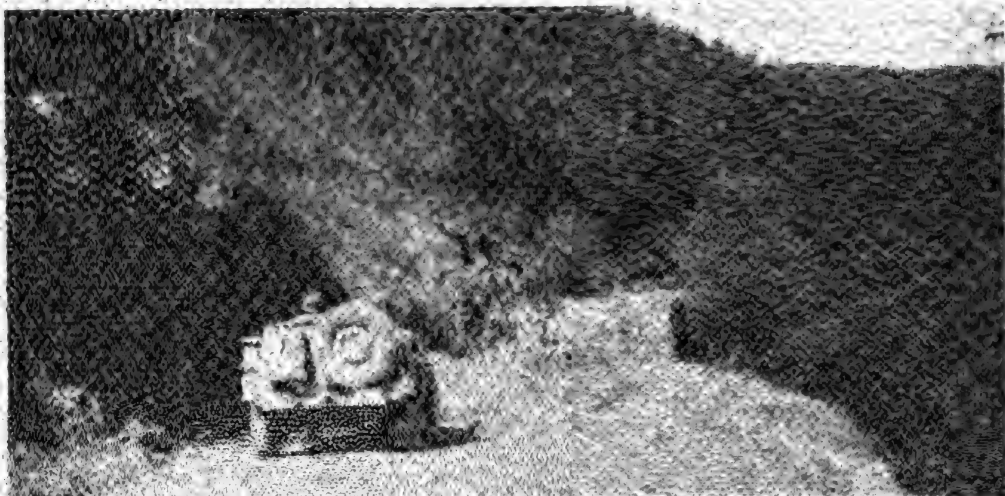
In spite of the high casualty rate, by 2030 both Company L and Company I were on Mt. Vaso digging in among the rocks as best they could. Outposts and listening posts had been established on the forward slopes with the remainder of both companies forming a perimeter defense on the reverse slope.

Upon completion of his reorganization and after receiving reports from his platoon leaders, Captain Draney determined Company L strength to be 50 men, broken down as follows: 1st Platoon, 18 men; 2d Platoon, 24 men; 3d Platoon, whereabouts unknown; Weapons Platoon, 8 men. Lieutenant Copeland arrived shortly thereafter bringing up 27 additional men who had become separated from their units, among them the greater part of the 3d Platoon. Thus Company L had an effective strength of 77 men. Company I's strength was equally low. Company L occupied the right reverse slope with the 3d Platoon on the left, 1st on the right, 2d in support. Company I occupied the left reverse slope of the hill with the 1st Platoon on the left, 2d on the right contacting Company L, and 3d in support.

The leading companies of the 3d Battalion, I and L, had received orders to jump off and take Mt. Vaso within an hour after taking Hill 553, and had no time to go over the hill with a fine-tooth comb to eliminate any groups of Germans who remained concealed. There were many Germans who hid in the dense underbrush of the area until the main body had passed through, and then took up the fight again.

Captain Crowden's Company F which had climbed the east side of Hill 553, now found themselves engaged in an all-day fire fight which kept them quite busy with these Germans who came to life as soon as the 3d Battalion had left for Mt. Vaso. These enemy were joined after dusk by other bypassed individuals and groups which caused Company F to suffer severe casualties as the fighting on Hill 553 continued into the night.

Meanwhile darkness had closed in on the handful of men trying to scrape some cover out of rocky Mt. Vaso. With it came more enemy from the flanks, who hastily reinforced positions on Hill 553 over which Companies I and L had moved but had vacated within the hour to attack Mt. Vaso. At 2330 Captain Stewart, whose reserve Company K had been supporting the attack



The enemy blew this road below Chianni. A jeep waits while engineers make the road passable.

by fire from positions on the east side of Mt. Vitalba and protecting the flank of the battalion, received an order from Lt. Colonel Long: "Company K will move down the north side of Hill 675 and clear out all the enemy resistance in the vicinity of Hill 553, aid the wounded on Hill 553, and proceed to the southwest slope of Hill 634 to take up positions."

The supply situation by this time had become critical. The road net was not only poor, it was now non-existent. Vehicles could follow the engineer-improved trails in the sector up to the rear of Hill 675. Here a well provisioned supply dump was set up. Here also the hardest part of supply began.

Mt. Vaso (Hill 634) controlled the entire ridge line of attack and the valleys on both sides. From it the enemy could and did observe everything which moved in the Regimental sector east and south, directing artillery and self-propelled 88, mortar, and machine-gun fire on all observed activity. The macadam road between Mt. Vaso and Hill 675 was just like a firing range back in the Fatherland to the watching enemy. He had plenty of artillery, plenty of ammunition, excellent observation, and good firing positions. The German situation no doubt paralleled the American. He had little trouble bringing supplies up behind Mt. Vaso; the 363d Infantry had little trouble bringing them up behind Mt. Vitalba. Between the two hills, however, was an inferno of lead and steel which discouraged any movements at all, day or night.

Behind Mt. Vitalba supply groups were organized from Service Company, Antitank Company, replacements, stragglers, mess sergeants, cooks, mail clerks, anybody, by the battalion S-4s. These groups were divided into carriers and guards. All the while the supply personnel were searching the Regiment's sector and the adjacent sectors too, for trails forward to the riflemen who urgently needed food, water, ammunition and equipment. At dark, after daylight reconnaissance in small numbers, jeeps loaded with supplies were led down the trails as far as they could go. Some of each item was put in each jeep so that if one or more were knocked out no one item would be entirely lacking. When vehicles had gone as far forward as they could carrying parties took over. These parties would move out with their armed guards in single file, each man loaded down with bandoleers of cartridges, belts of

machine-gun ammunition or a dozen rounds of mortar ammunition, a box of K rations or C rations or a five-gallon can of water, a replacement radio, extra batteries, wire, or whatever else was most urgently needed by the riflemen in the committed companies.

Scattered by artillery fire, raked by enemy machine guns, hit by mortars combing the draws and reverse slopes, these vulnerable supply trains suffered many casualties and it was unusual to get more than ten per cent of the supplies up to the firing line. More than likely the carrying parties would come under enemy small-arms fire and have to drop their loads and take up the fight.

So effectively had the enemy covered the sector south of Mt. Vaso with both harassing and observed concentrations that the 363d Infantry supply line was virtually stopped at Mt. Vitalba in spite of the constant struggle to get food, ammunition and equipment forward.

Since they had been committed to combat for the first time three days before, the 363d Infantrymen had fought seven miles against a very determined enemy occupying good positions on high ground. Enemy action, difficult terrain, and the rapidity of their aggressive advance made it almost impossible to resupply them with adequate food and water. In the hot sultry weather the lack of water was felt more than the lack of food—in fact most men elected not to eat what food they had carried with them because it only increased their thirst.

During the night of 6 July the troops, although very tired, attempted to dig in and improve their positions on Mt. Vaso, but by morning little headway had been made; most of the men were forced to pile rocks around themselves. As a result they had little real protection.

Company K moved from Mt. Vitalba, under cover of darkness, north up the macadam road, past the houses at RJ 509 and drove up Hill 553 to the left of Company F, clearing the ground in the dark, forcing the enemy infiltrators to retreat north again. By 0530 Friday morning Captain Stewart had his men disposed around the road on the reverse slope of Mt. Vaso, with Lieutenant Milewski's 2d Platoon in position on the left flank of, and in contact with, Company I's left platoon for flank protection.

At this time six or seven rounds a minute of enemy artillery and mortar fire began to fall on the companies. The enemy had excellent observation from the front and both flanks; several enemy tanks in turret defilade to the northeast were shelling the hill with direct observed fire. After two and a half hours of this steady moderately heavy pounding, the positions were subjected to a brief concentration of heavy fire which soon lifted and was followed by an enemy counterattack from the ridge to the northeast at 0800, 7 July.

After a half hour of bitter fighting Company L, aided by friendly artillery, drove back this counterattack but at the cost of 35 casualties.

The sector was subjected to a second enemy artillery and mortar barrage which lasted about ten minutes and further reduced the effective strength of the company to 45 men—a little more than half of the number which had occupied the hill the night before. Furthermore, the remaining men, exhausted and battle-worn, found they were running short of ammunition. They replenished their supply from the bodies and weapons of the casualties, realizing no more could be brought up to them because no supplies, food or ammunition had gotten through during the night.

At this moment of mounting difficulty, a force of about 200 Germans came sweeping up the hill in a second counterattack. As the foremost of the green-clad enemy approached through the dense foliage, the outposts opened fire. Meanwhile, the company mortars and machine guns began throwing down final protective line fires while the rest of Company L ran toward the forward slope and better firing positions. By 0830 the full force of the counterattack was felt. Both friendly and enemy concentrations of mortar and artillery were placed so close together that it was impossible to tell them apart.

S/Sgt. Alexander M. Greig of Company L at the conclusion of the first counterattack had gathered together eight or nine men to protect the right flank of the company position. As the enemy charged up the slope shouting "Heil, Hitler!" several of the hastily formed squads began to waver, and there was danger that the line would break. One man started to fall back.

Greig jumped up from his firing position, faced his men. "Don't let the sons of bitches bluff you—let's get 'em!" he shouted, turning and charging into the advancing enemy.

So inspiring were his courage and determination that four men, among them Pvt. Stanley M. Curtiss, Pvt. Walter M. Osenbaugh and Pfc. Louis T. Bacciglieri followed him in his charge, and the rest of the squad, taking positions of vantage, reopened fire. The crisis had been met and there was no question of the lines breaking.

Curtiss had his shirt collar shot away by an enemy machine pistol. In the face of the assault the enemy began to flee. Of the men who made the heroic charge only Curtiss and Osenbaugh came back. The others were later found lying in a group surrounded by a score of dead Germans.

Staff Sergeant Greig was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross posthumously.

At the same time, over on the left flank, T/5 William A. Montooth, an extra cook and barber in Company L, acting as a replacement for a rocket-launcher man, volunteered to act as company observer. He had manned his observation post all night, sending back reports of enemy activity, and also a report that he had seen the Germans string a communications line some distance down the hill. He had cut the wire and tied it to a bush beside his observation post.

When the first attack came Montooth notified Captain Draney and from his position pointed out the enemy troops and their disposition. It was noted that Company L's left flank, on which the observation post was located, was unprotected so Montooth was instructed to hold the position until reinforcements could be brought up. This he did. He stood up above the underbrush, exposing himself to the enemy and, firing his M-1 continuously, killed 12 Germans and delayed the advance on his left flank.

When the promised reinforcements arrived, they consisted of one rifleman and a machine gunner. Once Montooth attempted to point out two Germans hidden in a draw to his platoon leader. Impatient at the lieutenant's inability to pick them up right away, Montooth borrowed his carbine, his own supply of M-1 ammunition having been exhausted in his earlier fire fight, and calmly shot the two hidden enemy.

During the second counterattack Montooth got another rifle and ammuni-



Staff Sergeant Montooth, Company L, is awarded the DSC by General Truscott, CG, Fifth Army.

tion from a near-by wounded soldier and accounted for five more of the enemy.

As the battle lessened in fury and slowed down to an occasional crack of a rifle it seemed that the attack had been stopped.

To the left Company I men could hear the shooting and shouting but did not know the situation. As they were not being attacked they could only wait for developments. At 1000 one of their outpost squads, led by Sgt. Don C. Leath, saw several Germans coming at them from the side in an attempt to flank Company I by committing their reserve. The outposts yelled that "the Jerries are coming!" and took up the fire fight while Company I got ready to meet the attack. As 150 to 200 Germans came piling over the top of the hill—Mausers, pistols and machine guns spitting—Company I men got out of their holes with bayonets fixed to meet them. To the right, understrength Company L was doing the same thing but was gradually being disorganized and forced back by sheer weight of numbers, suffering severe casualties.

With Captain Kriel, Lieutenants Richie, Glendening, and Simpson all shouting warnings of the attack, Company I moved forward two platoons abreast, one behind, to get at the enemy's flank under mortar, machine-gun, automatic-rifle and rifle fire. They hit hard at the assaulting Germans, resorting to hand-to-hand bayonet fighting as they closed in. Company L meanwhile had regrouped and was fighting back tooth and nail, gradually gaining ground inch by inch.

Private First Class Rex W. Jewkes was at this time an ammunition bearer

in a Company I mortar squad which had lost all but one of its mortars, thanks to enemy artillery. Jewkes, seeing that there were enough men around to keep the one mortar in action, went with the riflemen. During the barrage after the first counterattack one of the company's light machine-gun crews had been hit, wounding every man but leaving the gun intact.

Jewkes picked up the gun, found a man to help him, moved over the crest of Mt. Vaso, set up his machine gun and began firing at the enemy. He had advanced so far to the front that he was receiving fire from his own troops—one automatic rifle in particular systematically chewed down a clump of grass not over a foot from his side. Jewkes continued his well directed fire throughout the counterattack, and was a main factor in its eventual repulse in that sector.

After an hour the counterattacking Germans were forced to withdraw down the forward slope of Mt. Vaso where they continued the fire fight although they had been driven out of the American positions at bayonet point.

From 0830 to 1400, 7 July 1944, Company I had 31 men wounded and 33 killed. Although there were many many acts of outstanding heroism, both among fellow riflemen, and medics in caring for the wounded, the actions of Private First Class Millard F. Grimes and Private First Class Charles H. Knight are especially worthy of mention.

Both company aid men, they worked tirelessly all day running from man to man through the enemy fire, bandaging, moving men to cover, giving morphine, applying tourniquets, checking, making litter patients as comfortable as possible—since no litter squads had been able to reach the hill—and starting the walking wounded on their way back to the aid station. In checking and treating all of the 64 men, both Grimes and Knight had shells land close enough to them on several occasions to knock them down but they continued their work all through the shellings and attacks. When these stopped, they began to evacuate the more seriously wounded to the aid station.

Captain Draney called Lieutenant Colonel Long by radio at 1130 and reported the damage done to Company L. The company was disorganized, exhausted, had used up all its ammunition, had suffered high losses in killed and wounded—both officers and enlisted men—and had actually ceased to exist as a fighting unit. Lieutenant Colonel Long ordered Captain Draney to withdraw what was left of his company back to Hill 553 from which they had attacked the afternoon before. Company K would cover the move before pulling back to reserve at Hill 675.

While the withdrawal of Company L was in progress, Technician Fifth Grade Montooth remained in his position firing all the ammunition he could lay his hands on to cover the move. Running from rifle to rifle left by the wounded he fired every available round of ammunition. Then, further resistance being impossible, he began carrying the wounded men over the top of the hill to the reverse slope. Finally, when he was so exhausted he could do no more—he had been fighting for three days and nights with little food and less water—he reported to a battalion officer the location of other wounded so that medical assistance could be gotten to them. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his extraordinary heroism.

In the meantime, with the slackening of fire and the lull which followed the last furious onslaught, it seemed certain to Captain Kriel that the counterattack had been repulsed. He moved Company I back to its reverse slope position

at which time the enemy observers on the flanks called down 88 and 170mm fire on the moving figures, causing the company to suffer even higher casualties than it had during the hand-to-hand fighting. Captain Kriel took stock of the situation. Half his men and officers were dead or wounded. Those who remained were shocked, exhausted, out of ammunition and in a high state of confusion. He reported to battalion by radio and received instructions to withdraw on the left of Company L to Hill 553. Company K would cover the withdrawal, then move back to Hill 675. Captain Kriel gave the order to withdraw to Hill 553, five men at a time. The withdrawal was supervised by Captain Kriel who, when he arrived at Hill 553 with the last elements of his company, found those who had moved back digging in and reorganizing on the hill to the left of the handful of Company L men.

After the two companies which had been so badly shot up were withdrawn, Captain Stewart pulled back from Mt. Vaso along the west side of the macadam road to Mt. Vitalba and had his men take up firing positions on the western slope. With Company K went the 2d Platoon of Company M which had been attached when Company K moved off Mt. Vitalba initially.

The withdrawal and reorganization took all afternoon and night. Friday midnight, 7 July, found Captain Kriel and 14 men of Company I occupying Hill 553 with Company F on their right. Telephone communications weren't possible because of the supply situation—there was not enough wire on Hill 553 to stretch the hundred yards or so between companies. Companies K and M were on Mt. Vitalba. Some stragglers from Company L joined the battalion observation post group on Mt. Vitalba and others, exhausted, returned to rear areas for rest and food.

On the afternoon of the 6th, Company F had moved up to Hill 553, meeting little resistance. This had placed the company to the right rear of the 3d Battalion for the Mt. Vaso attack.

Just after the company had dug in on Hill 553 to hold the position for the night, an enemy artillery barrage began to fall there. Inside of half an hour 103 shells fell within the company area which was less than 300 yards square, the first shells killing four men and wounding several more. While the shells continued to take a toll of casualties, Private First Class Haskel M. Reels, a company aid man, climbed out of his partially dug slit trench, hurried over to aid the wounded and check the dead. Reels continued dressing the wounded men throughout the entire company area during the barrage; he was hit twice by close shell bursts, one cutting him about the face and head, another breaking his arm as he continued his work.

When the fire lifted he directed the dressing of his own wounds and then led the walking wounded back to the battalion aid station.

As nightfall came, the enemy counterattacked the 3d Battalion and, forcing it to withdraw, continued their attack until they had once again reached the forward slopes of Hill 553. Taking advantage of darkness, small groups of snipers infiltrated between Companies F and E on the right and by daybreak had cut off all lines of communication to the rear of Company F.

It was decided that because the 3d Battalion was no longer to the front of Company F it would be necessary to attack a small knoll where the enemy was observed concentrating.

With Lieutenant Robert C. Hatcher leading the 3d Platoon, and the mortars, machine guns, and automatic rifle fire of the rest of Company F for overhead

support, the platoon moved out in the attack. Close coordination between the infantry platoon and the supporting fire enabled the platoon to capture the knoll without a single casualty. Later, after the attack was completed, 37 dead Germans were counted along with four machine guns and a powerful radio.

Although this attack had been more than successful, the supply of ammunition was nearly exhausted. Attempts to replenish ammunition, food and water during daylight hours of 7 July resulted in heavy casualties inflicted on Company F patrols. Due to the short life of a radio battery no contact was possible with the battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Murphy. By taking the battery out of the radio and laying it in the hot sun it could be charged enough to transmit not longer than one minute twice daily. At night no contact could be established since the battery once again became cold. This type of communication lasted through 6, 7 and 8 July. It was deemed impossible to spare any more men for patrols to try to get through for supplies and Company F set up an island defense to save the company from an attack from the rear. During the three days the company had had no food or water, the supply of ammunition had been redistributed so that each man had no more than one clip of ammunition. The mortars and machine guns had completely exhausted their supply.

It is estimated that 2000 rounds of artillery fire fell on the company in the three days causing heavy casualties. Some men with wounds lay in ditches for two days due to the impossibility of evacuation.

Members of one Company F outpost saw an enemy machine gun fire on a team of litter bearers who were attempting to reach the Company G area to evacuate several seriously wounded men there. Each time the German gunners ceased firing the litter team would try to get through, but the second they exposed themselves the gun chattered again and the team was driven back.

Staff Sergeant Robert J. Hutson at the outpost reported this to the platoon command post and requested permission to take Private Henry A. Eisfeldt, a rifleman who had asked to help, and attempt to knock out the machine-gun nest. Permission was granted. In an hour the two had worked their way to within 30 yards of the machine gun without being detected. Sergeant Hutson was armed with a Browning automatic rifle while Eisfeldt carried a Springfield. Both had hand grenades. At this point the two men, who were concealed by bushes, could see that there were more Germans present than would ordinarily man just one machine gun, but after a hasty whispered consultation they decided to assault the position anyway. At a signal both threw hand grenades, Hutson charged the enemy group, his automatic rifle blazing while Eisfeldt covered him by fire. In the ensuing action, Eisfeldt shot five of the Germans, one of whom was closing in on Hutson from behind with a knife in his hand. By the time the fight was over, the two men had killed 14 of the enemy and returned to their outpost carrying the German machine gun while the litter bearers continued on their way and evacuated the Company G wounded unmolested. Eisfeldt was awarded the Silver Star Medal and Sergeant Hutson was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for this action.

As Company E moved forward from Hill 461 to Montalone (0900, 7 July 1944) its advance party suddenly came under the small-arms fire of eight automatic weapons. The group immediately took cover in the heavily wooded area and halted the remainder of the company. One squad which was immediately behind the advance group was ordered forward, and took up the fight.

As the squad was withdrawing to maneuver around the enemy resistance, an enemy grenade landed in its midst. Private Crum M. Ritter picked it up and, shielding the rest of his squad with his body, attempted to throw it, but was seriously wounded as the grenade exploded before he could get rid of it.

This was the first time the two leading battalions had been able to resupply themselves with ammunition, food, clothing and equipment since before the jump-off from Mt. Vitalba the night of 5 July. The 1st Battalion was also able to move forward to Hill 553 in preparation for the recapture of Mt. Vaso.

Montalone sat to the east and was a bit separated from the ridge line which was the Regiment's route of attack. Its occupation gave excellent right flank protection because from it, as well as from enemy-held Mt. Vaso, one could look across the valley to the east as far as the Casaglia-Chianni road a mile and a half away and observe any large enemy movements in that territory. Just east of the road the ground fell off sharply into the Lupicaia tributary of the Cecina River before rising to the next north-south ridge line along which the adjacent unit on the right, the 88th Infantry Division, was attacking.

Company E organized positions and set up machine guns near the crest of Montalone, keeping a close watch on this right half of the regimental sector.

"We could see tanks moving on the road to our right," said Lieutenant Edmund J. Carberry, Company E weapons platoon leader. "Evidently Jerry didn't know we were on Montalone. All at once we spotted three columns of Germans coming our way across the valley. There was about a company in each of the columns, and they were well spread out. One column walked right down the axis of our machine-gun barrels. Rifle fire, artillery air bursts, machine-gun fire, mortar fire, everything hit them as they crossed the open fields. They must have left 500 dead there when they pulled what was left back over the road where the ground dropped off and they were out of our fire."

While the two leading battalions had been advancing to Mt. Vaso and during the counterattacks there, the 1st Battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Ralph N. Woods, less Company A, had been moving up from assembly area behind Ridge 550, three miles to the south. Company A had not returned from the 776th Tank Destroyer Battalion sector.

By 0830, 7 July, the 1st Battalion, after receiving some artillery fire, had moved three-quarters of a mile north of its assembly area. At 1150, when the 3d Battalion had repulsed the second counterattack on Mt. Vaso, it was involved in a fire fight with a strong enemy group to the right front. While moving up the trail to Ridge 461, Company B was fired on by enemy machine guns in a farmhouse and wooded area to the right flank. Companies B and C took up the fight, opening fire and attempting to maneuver, also calling down artillery fire on the German position. All afternoon the exchange of small arms, mortar, machine-gun and artillery fire kept up with neither the enemy nor the two 1st Battalion companies being able to maneuver or disengage without drawing heavy and effective artillery fire from the other side. Both factions were awaiting darkness to break the tie, and when nightfall finally did come Company B reported four men killed, three wounded; Company C reported three men wounded. Enemy casualties were unknown. Both companies' communications wires were torn up from the exchanges of artillery in spite of constant maintenance; food and water were needed as well as medical aid. Under cover of darkness they disengaged and moved over to what they thought was the left side of Hill 553. It was not until daylight the next morning, 8 July,

that the battalion discovered that it was not located on Hill 553, but on Ridge 461, a thousand yards south, a very similar terrain feature.

By noon the companies had assembled and moved out up the trail which would bring them to the macadam road at the farmhouses, RJ 509, by 1325. Here they were spotted by the enemy observers on Mt. Vaso, who could see down the entire road to Mt. Vitalba, and were brought under artillery fire. As they deployed and moved through the tangled undergrowth and brush, the battalion also came under small-arms and machine-gun fire from strong enemy groups which, for the third time, had infiltrated onto Hill 553. Companies I and F were still on the hill, but it was impossible for them to cover the entire terrain feature and keep it all under surveillance because the two of them together only made one full-strength company and 553 was a large hill covered with dense undergrowth. This fire continued for well over four hours. During the first half hour Company C lost eight men—four wounded and four killed. Being the only aid man attached to the company at the time, Private First Class Stoian V. Petroff immediately braved the enemy fire to administer to the four wounded men. After taking care of the first two and checking the four dead, Petroff discovered that the remaining two wounded men were lying in exposed positions and in danger of being hit again by shells falling in their immediate area.

Realizing the inadvisability of treating them there, he picked one of them up and carried him through the continuous shelling to a nearby cave, gave him a shot of morphine, made him as comfortable as possible, and returned through the fire for the second man, also bringing him to the shelter of the cave. By this time Petroff's actions had been picked up by the German observers who quickly directed a portion of their fire on the cave in order to liquidate its occupants, but Petroff continued his work inside until the wounds were properly dressed. Realizing that the cave was no longer a safe place to leave the men Petroff called on three Company C men to help him improvise a stretcher from a shelter half and carry the men back through the fire to the battalion aid station some two miles to the rear. Again passing through the enemy fire, the men returned to their company.

The 1st Battalion took up the fight from road junction 509 back down the trail. Companies I and F attacked from their occupied positions on Hill 553, and Company K displaced forward from Mt. Vitalba to aid again in the cleaning-off of the hill. At this time Company A, now under Lieutenant Joseph H. Foster, 1st Battalion S-3, rejoined the Regiment and replaced Company K on Mt. Vitalba.

The fire fight, supported heavily by artillery from both sides, continued until after dark that night when Companies I and F moved in and wiped out several machine-gun emplacements, thus reducing a major portion of the resistance.

The 1st Battalion companies were most of the night reorganizing and preparing to jump off at 0800 the next morning, Sunday, 9 July, using Road Junction 509 as a line of departure with Company B replacing Company C as the assault company.

Colonel Magill now had three badly mauled rifle companies out of nine—Companies A, L, and I. Companies B and C had not technically been committed yet, and Company K was in good shape. With an all-out attack on Mt. Vaso planned for 9 July, Colonel Magill attached Company K to the 1st Battalion and Company A to the 3d Battalion, thus giving himself two strong

fighting units for the attack. Friday and Saturday, 7 and 8 July, had seen the advance of the 2d Battalion to Montalone on the right of the high ground along which the Regiment was attacking, thus straightening the line and protecting somewhat the right flank.

Sunday morning at 0800, the 91st Division Artillery which had moved up behind Combat Team 363, (346th, 347th, 348th and 916th Field Artillery Battalions) opened fire on Mt. Vaso. At 1100 three battalions of infantry did the same thing. At the same time the 1st Battalion—less Company A, plus Company K—began advancing from Hill 553 toward Mt. Vaso in the face of heavy enemy artillery fire. Twenty minutes later they reached the southern slopes to find that the hill was now held only by small, scattered pockets of Germans equipped with machine pistols. Advancing over the ground vacated three days before by Companies I and L they reached the top and had cleared the hill by 1550 Sunday afternoon, 9 July.

During two days of the approach and battle for Mt. Vaso, Technicians Fifth Grade Ralph H. Goe and Ralph D. Hall, 1st Battalion medics, maintained an intermediate aid station handling all the 1st Battalion casualties and many from the 2d Battalion on their way to the rear collecting station, from a partially sheltered spot beside the route of evacuation. Under enemy fire they gave morphine, administered plasma, improvised splints, did their utmost to make every man as comfortable as possible, and supervised the organization of litter teams to speed the evacuation of the wounded.

The terrain was so difficult that the minimum time in which a man could be carried to the aid station was an hour. The expert care, attention, and interest shown by Goe and Hall for their patients in the thirty-six hours they operated the intermediate station are credited with saving many lives among the 92 men they treated.

After digging in and occupying Mt. Vaso the remainder of the day and night, the 1st Battalion attacked at 0530 the following morning and captured without enemy resistance the next intermediate objective of the Regiment—Hill 601—at 0930. This hill was located almost a mile farther north.

Some snipers were by-passed, an inevitable occurrence since the units were moving in column against little or no small-arms resistance from the enemy. Intelligence reports indicated that the Germans were withdrawing to the north in the vicinity of Bagni di Casciana, some five miles distant.

A good bit of German heavy mortar fire was received on Mt. Vaso to which the 1st Battalion command post and Company D had moved for the attack of Hill 601, causing seven casualties in the weapons company. By nightfall, 10 July, the leading 1st Battalion had taken another mile of the mountainous terrain and was outposting Poggio di Rostona (Rostona Ridge) which was separated from Hill 601 by the Del Tufarello stream bed.

By noon, the 2d Battalion had leapfrogged forward to Mt. Vaso and had immediately made contact with the tail of the 1st Battalion, planning to move forward to Hill 601 as soon as the last of Lieutenant Colonel Woods' column had cleared. This they did while the 3d Battalion moved up to Mt. Vaso and Hill 601 early the next day, 11 July.

Throughout the 11th, with Companies B and C leading, the Regiment continued the advance against scattered machine-gun and machine-pistol resistance in addition to the ever-present German artillery and mortars.

As the head of the 2d Battalion column rejoined the tail of the 1st Battalion

on Rostona Ridge, it was subjected to an accurate mortar shelling which severely wounded Captain Thomas K. Franks, commanding Company E, killed his runner, Private Claudio Gonzales, and caused other casualties. Lieutenant Carberry, the weapons platoon leader, assumed command.

The advance continued along the rocky winding mountain trails through rough, scrubby, almost uninhabited country, without other casualties. The sweat-drenched column moved along slowly, like purposeful ants, down one ravine, across the stream, filled their canteens, and began climbing the next hill. Then down, across, and up again and again, struggling under their loads.

By evening the 1st Battalion had run out of wire and had lost contact with the remainder of the column. The mule-pack train, which had been attached to the Regiment when it entered combat, now loaded with ammunition, water, K rations, wire, batteries, mail, and *Stars and Stripes* failed to reach them because the guides which had returned to lead the train up had become lost—an easy thing to do in such terrain where each hill looks like the next and each steep valley like the one crossed twenty minutes before.

At 0300, 12 July, the 363d Infantry passed to 91st Division control by Field Order No. 1, 91st Division dated 1800, 11 July 1944, and for the first time the Division was fighting as a single unit. In direct support of the Regiment was the 347th Field Artillery Battalion and Company C, 316th Engineers. The 363d Infantry continued to attack in the same zone and maintain contact with the 34th Division on the left.

On the right of the 363d Infantry, the 362d Infantry, reinforced by Company D, 1st Armored Regiment, was ordered to attack at the same time, and secure the high ground in the vicinity of Terricciola. The 361st Infantry, in Division reserve, was to prepare to move to a forward assembly area on Division order and be ready to assist the attack of the 362d Infantry.

The attack against the regimental objective, the high ground west of the town of Chianni, continued at 0300, Wednesday morning, 12 July. As the 1st Battalion switchboard hadn't reported in and it was impossible to radio an order and overlay, Major Pinnick, S-3, sent the orders to Lieutenant Colonel Woods by liaison officer, who also failed to reach the battalion command post. Thus it was 1300 before communications could be reestablished and the order transmitted for Lieutenant Colonel Woods to take Hill 577, a mile west of Chianni.

Field Order No. 2, 91st Division, was issued at 1800, 12 July 1944, and ordered the 363d Infantry to attack in its zone and seize Chianni by maneuver from the west and northwest, secure Phase Line B which ran across the sectors roughly 2500 yards north of the town, and keep contact with the 362d Infantry on the right.

Company C, 316th Engineers, instituted advance road maintenance as far forward as possible under cover of darkness while vigorous patrolling was maintained to keep contact with the enemy during the night.

By 1900 Wednesday evening, the 1st Battalion was digging in on Hill 577, part of the Regimental objective, where it held until the 2d Battalion passed through the next day, 13 July, and then reverted to Regimental reserve. While the 2d Battalion passed through the 1st Battalion, the 3d Battalion moved on Chianni where the Italian partisans assisted in cleaning the town of many enemy. Company I entered the town at 1700 and found that 400 to 500 of the enemy had left there at 0830 that morning for Poggio Rignardio, a ridge two miles north. While mop-up squads went through all the buildings in Chianni,



On to Leghorn.

roadblocks and defensive positions were set up facing north on the high ground and roads leading out of town. No resistance was met and the house-to-house canvass netted no prisoners.

At 0330 Friday morning, 14 July Colonel Magill ordered the 2d Battalion to take Hill 401, halfway to Poggio Rignardio, while the 3d Battalion attacked along the road seizing the town of Rivalto, Poggio Rignardio, and Bagni. The 1st Battalion would remain and occupy Chianni and vicinity. Reconnaissance was made and warning orders were issued to the companies before 0500. The battalions crossed the line of departure at 0530 and moved forward all morning without meeting resistance. By 0730 Lieutenant Colonel Murphy's 2d Battalion was on Hill 477, the terrain feature overlooking the objective, Hill 401. At 0935 the 3d Battalion had a patrol as far north along the Chianni-Bagni road as the leading elements of the 2d Battalion south of 401, who reported that the road was in good shape and that they could see the village of Colle Montanino 1000 yards to their front. Partisans had informed them the town was not occupied by the enemy.

By 1400 Lieutenant Colonel Murphy had advanced his battalion, taking Hill 401 with a platoon, meeting no small-arms resistance, but losing seven men hit by shell fragments. At the same time patrols were sent forward from both leading battalions in the direction of Bagni probing for the enemy who seemed to have made an organized withdrawal from the sector.

A 1st Battalion patrol under Lieutenant Fabian A. Allen, Company B, was

directed to contact the 362d Infantry whose leading elements were moving approximately abreast of those of the 363d Infantry. Acting on information that the town of Terricciola to the right front in the 362d Infantry sector had been occupied, Lieutenant Allen proceeded there. As the patrol arrived in the vicinity, it was met by several Italian partisans who advised that the town was still held by small enemy groups.

The patrol moved in from the west, assisted in capturing the town, materially aided the advance of both units, and made contact. Upon reporting back to Lieutenant Colonel Woods, Allen presented four prisoners to the 1st Battalion special police.

Field Order No. 3, 91st Division, was issued from the command post at Casaglia at 1800, 14 July 144, moving the 361st Infantry into an assembly area near Poggio Ginestra some 3000 yards east of Chianni in preparation to pass through the 363d Infantry and continue the attack towards Pontedera on the Arno River ten miles to the north. The 362d Infantry remained on the right of the 361st.

The 363d Infantry, with Company C, 316th Engineers attached, would continue the attack, seize the town of Bagni di Casciana, then revert to Division reserve, reorganize and protect the left flank of the Division, keeping contact with the 34th Division attacking on the left of the 91st Division. Upon arrival at Bagni, Company C, 316th Engineers, would revert to Division control.

By 1900, the 2d Battalion in column of companies, Company F leading, had reached Colle Montanino, a mile south of Bagni, while the 3d Battalion in a similar formation, Company A still attached, had marched along the improved road and reached the cemetery on the outskirts of the town itself. Lieutenant Colonel Murphy's battalion continued northeast from Colle Montanino on the road until it joined the Chianni-Bagni road a half mile south of town and fell in line behind the leading 3d Battalion.

The advance was slowed by road demolitions and mines but by 2010, 14 July, the 3d Battalion had occupied Bagni; the remainder of the Regiment immediately closed on the objective and went into an assembly area. At 0300 the Regiment reverted to Division reserve.

The 2d Battalion assembled in an area about one-fourth mile southeast of Bagni which had been captured by the Regiment the day before. This whole territory had been heavily mined by the Germans before they pulled out, and caused several casualties both in the 363d Infantry and in other units which assembled or passed through that area.

Around 1330, 14 July, two men from the 2d Battalion Ammunition and Pioneer Platoon went out to find some water, which they located about 800 yards away in a draw. As they went down into the draw to investigate, one of the men tripped a wire which detonated a Teller mine, severely injuring him in the face and chest and temporarily blinding the man with him by throwing dirt and gravel in his face, besides bruising him about the legs and body. The blinded man staggered out of the draw where he was found and taken care of by some local Italians who had heard the explosion.

Technician Fifth Grade Ferdinand H. Meyners, a medic at the 2d Battalion aid station about 500 yards away, heard the explosion too, sensed what had happened, gathered four or five of his companions and started in the direction of the explosion. Meyners met the Italians and the blinded man near the draw. These Italians indicated that two natives had been killed in this same draw and

that the Germans had been seen planting a truckload of mines in this one field. Seeing Meyners making preparations to enter the minefield to remove the wounded man, the Italians, as well as the other men he had brought with him tried to persuade him not to enter. In spite of this Meyners started into the draw. When he had gotten about twenty yards on his way he stepped on an S mine which mortally wounded him.

In order to remove the injured man and Meyners, the 2d Battalion Ammunition and Pioneer Platoon was called and went to work disarming several more mines before they were able to reach and evacuate the men.

While the 363d Infantry went into Division reserve in and around the town of Bagni di Casciana, the 361st Infantry took over the sector and continued north in the zone towards Pontedera and the Arno River ten miles away, with the 362d Infantry on the right.

During 15-16-17 July, the 363d Infantry had their first relaxation and hot meals in two weeks. They bathed in the mineral baths for which the town was named, held church services, and reorganized to continue the attack. Their location at this time was eight miles due east of the large seaport of Livorno (Leghorn) which was still occupied by German forces.



CHAPTER 3

TO THE ARNO

LEGHORN would mean a lot to Fifth Army as the Italian campaign continued. As a port its facilities were second only to those of Naples, which was now 250 miles south of the front lines; thus, it was necessary to haul every shell, every piece of equipment, every can of food overland those 250 miles to the man who was going to use it. With Leghorn in the hands of Fifth Army this overland shipping route would be very much shortened; more ammunition, more food, more equipment would get to the fighting man quicker.

The 34th Division was driving up the coast and Highway 1 in the sector to the immediate west of the 91st Division sector, with Leghorn in its path. German defenses here were built strongly, deeply, and for the purpose of repelling a coastal landing in the area, but were flexible enough so that many of them could be used to delay the 34th Division's attack from the south.

In the afternoon of 17 July, Task Force Williamson was born. Attached to the 34th Division, it was commanded by Brigadier General R. E. S. Williamson, Assistant Division Commander of the 91st Division, and was made up of the 363d Infantry Regiment; 2d Platoon, 91st Reconnaissance Troop; Company A, 752d Tank Destroyer Battalion; Company C (less one platoon), 804th Tank Destroyer Battalion; and Company A, 235th Engineers.

Its mission was to make an end-around play and capture Leghorn—flanking the city by an attack west while the 34th Division continued driving north.

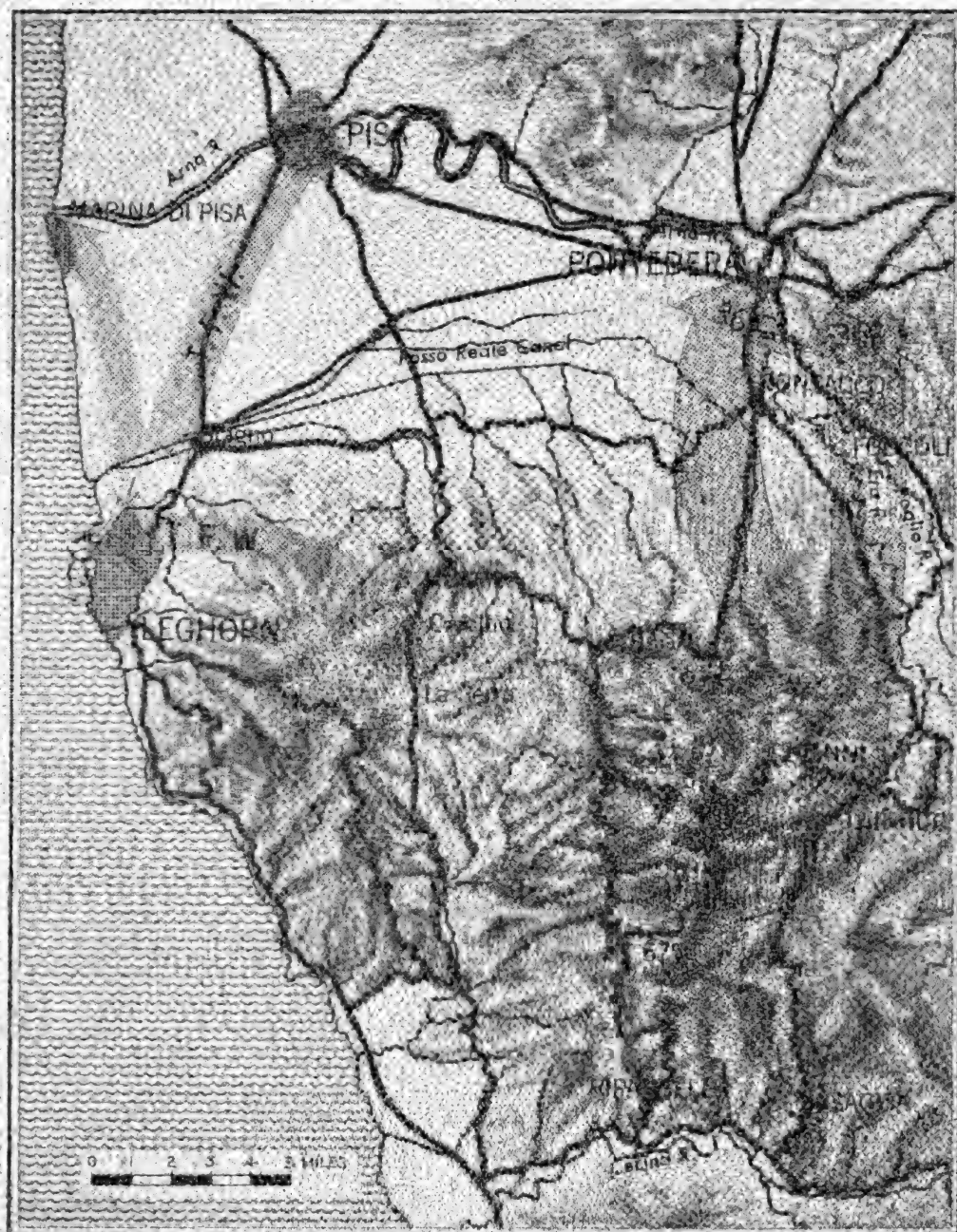
At 1917, 17 July 1944 the 3d Battalion entrucked at Bagni followed at 2010 by the 1st and 2d Battalions and drove black-out to the Task Force Williamson assembly area eight airline miles east of Leghorn in the vicinity of Crocino.

Twenty-five minutes after the task force elements had closed into the assembly area at 0210, 18 July, General Williamson had received and issued an order that the attack on Leghorn would begin at 0330. The plan called for a rapid envelopment with one battalion moving along the high ground which led to the seaport, protecting the left flank of the remainder of the task force which would use the most direct route by road—12½ miles. Word had come down—"bypass any large resistance—and push on rapidly."

The 3d Battalion, passing through the Japanese-American 100th Battalion, moved across country in a direct line to Leghorn and met no resistance until Company K received some small-arms fire from south of a trail which led to the settlement of Ceppeto, 2000 yards from their jump-off point at about 0730. Company K called for machine-gun and mortar fire from Company M on the estimated 50 or 60 enemy entrenched in the vicinity.

At 0935 the 1st Battalion moved out of the assembly area in column of companies (B, A, C, D) on foot along the unimproved road leading north. After a mile and a half the road forked, the left fork following a valley into the seaport of Leghorn. By 0945 the road was alive with dusty GIs of the 1st Battalion on foot, in reconnaissance cars, organic vehicles, medical jeeps and trailers, kitchens, communication jeeps laying wire, everything. The race to Leghorn was on! General Clark, Fifth Army commander, came by on his way from the TFW command post and gave the column a big salute. At 1145 the 2d Battalion moved out and joined behind the rearmost elements of the 1st Battalion.

Meanwhile with the aid of Company M and artillery fire the 3d Battalion



The Capture of Leghorn and Pisa.

had deployed and driven back the initial enemy resistance at Ceppeto, advancing another thousand yards northwest where their leading elements and the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon ran into more resistance at Colalto, a group of farm buildings along a road which joined the route the 1st and 2d Battalion column was taking about 500 yards to the north. This resistance, mostly dug-in snipers armed with machine pistols, was again driven north before the 3d Battalion advance.

At 1255, Colonel Magill joined Lieutenant Colonel Woods, 1st Battalion

commander, they decided to move the tanks which, until that time had remained in the assembly area, to join the foot column of the battalions using the road. The roads had been reported as heavily mined. Engineer parties with mine detectors were sweeping the roads in front of the tanks. They began the move forward using the same route as the remainder of the column while the tank destroyers were held in mobile reserve.

At 1230 the leading Company B opened fire on a platoon of retreating Germans inflicting heavy casualties but in return was raked by three heavy machine guns in possession of the enemy for forty-five minutes during which three Company B men were killed and three more wounded. At this place Company A replaced Company B in the lead, followed by Company C and attachments of Company D. Company B reverted to battalion reserve. Tanks joined the column here with orders to support the infantry.

By 1445, both the battalions moving west along the road and the 3d Battalion pushing across country were in sight of a church on the road near Il Casone.

Shortly after this the 1st and 3d Battalions made contact at Il Casone, where the 3d Battalion had pushed out northwest to parallel the road and continue protecting the left flank of the task force by clearing Hills 312 and 270. The platoon of the 91st Reconnaissance Troop was ordered to move rapidly to the edge of the city of Leghorn. Meanwhile the armored column moving along the road was able to proceed more rapidly until at 1730 as the leading elements of Company A reached the last high ground about two miles outside the city, they were fired upon by two enemy machine guns manned by nine Germans. The advance guard, which was caught in an open area at the base of the wooded hill upon which the enemy guns had been set up, immediately deployed and took cover in the ditches but not before two of its members had been killed and three more wounded. While this advance guard returned the enemy fire, a flanking force moved around and up the hill, knocking out the machine-gun positions with the aid of tank and small-arms fire.

While the opposition was being overcome the column had stopped on the road, reorganized, and loaded on the tanks and organic vehicles after walking all day, to enter the city.

Just as it was getting dusk at 2100, 18 July, the leading elements of the now completely motorized column covered by the platoon of the Reconnaissance Troop passed through groups of cheering Italians lining the streets and came into Leghorn proper. A halt was called while the point investigated Highway 1. A German bicycle messenger unknowingly pedaled his way south on the highway reaching a distance of thirty yards from the head of the column. He was shot by Lieutenant Youngs of Company A and in the dusk probably never suspected Americans were within ten miles of the city.

Meanwhile back in the column a couple of hundred yards, the infantrymen were piled on tanks, jeeps and trailers waiting for the column to move again. They were watching shuttered second-story windows apprehensively and wondering if all the Germans had left town or if behind those shutters wasn't sitting a Kraut or two with a rifle or machine pistol—just waiting.

Suddenly nearby machine-gun and rifle fire broke the deathly silence. In practically nothing flat infantrymen had cleared off the tanks, out of jeeps and trailers, hit the ground in firing positions and were looking for targets. The center of the action was one block east of the north-south railroad tracks which ran perpendicular to the American column's path.



Brig. Gen. Raymond E. S. Williamson, Assistant Division Commander, heading the task force, and Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark, then Fifth Army commander, look over their maps as TFW enters the seaport of Lghorn.

Meanwhile, the 34th Division to which the task force was attached, was fighting its way up the coastal road to the city, faced by German defenses built to repel a possible Allied landing such as the Anzio beachhead. Other regiments of the 91st Division were to the west battling toward the town of Pontedera and the Arno River north of Bagni.



A cut-throat poker game whiles away the time at a street barricade in the center of Leghorn.

A German Volkswagen carrying an officer and driver who had been south on reconnaissance was returning to headquarters in Leghorn. In the gathering darkness they were within a hundred yards of the column before they saw it or were able to distinguish the Allied white star of liberation on the vehicles. Recognition was simultaneous. The German tried to turn his Volkswagen around while the GIs on the tank opened fire with tommy guns and rifles. This, plus the menacing 75mm gun on the tank turret which was swinging their way, convinced the Germans that their best bet was to abandon their vehicle and head for a nearby building.

One round from the 75mm gun made a blazing wreck of the Volkswagen, the machine-gun fire cut down the driver before he had gotten very far, but the officer made the doorway to the closest building and got safely in before a second round from the tank brought the stone doorway crashing down behind him.

Reloading, the column moved on across Highway 1 into one of the town's many public squares. Here Lieutenant Stephen L. Kish, now commanding Company A, organized street-fighting platoons while the tanks with Company A infantry support cut all streets leading into the square.

At 0100, on the morning of 19 July, Company B with Company D machine guns in support led by Lieutenant Fabian E. Allen, outposted Garibaldi Avenue for a distance of 750 yards, thus cutting off retreat in that sector for any enemy forces being driven north by the still-attacking 34th Division on the coast to the south. With this small force, the 1st Battalion, 363d Infantry, remained alone in Leghorn that night, with General Williamson and Colonel Magill coordinating and directing the movements.

The 2d Battalion had moved into an assembly area at dusk, when the 1st Battalion had been held up before entering the city, about 4000 yards east of Highway 1 at C. Campo al Melo, while the 3d Battalion had come out of the hills and joined the road used for the advance of the armored column at a point 2000 yards farther east, going into an assembly area there for the night.

To intercept any enemy who might be retreating north in the face of the 34th Division's attack from the south, Antitank Company outposted the entire east-west road used by the task force for its end-around from the 2d Battalion assembly area to the city itself. They set up 57mm guns at the junction of all north-south roads in addition to hastily mining these roads, but no enemy armor attempted to pass through them.

At 0610 the next morning, the 2d Battalion entered Leghorn, occupying from the 1st Battalion area to the waterfront. Here they outposted and sent patrols throughout the dock area finding barbed wire, rock barricades and antitank mines strewn about quite thickly, but not planted. Company E killed two snipers who had fired at one of their patrols in buildings which they searched.

The 3d Battalion followed the 2d Battalion into the city, outposting a sector just to the north of them, closing into their zone at 0900. It was about this time that the 135th Infantry of the 34th Division, with attached armor, reached the central part of the city in their drive from the south as General Clark arrived to make a tour of the port and view his new prize.

While the 2d and 3d Battalions completed plans for outposting the morning of 19 July, the Regimental command post moved into Leghorn and plans were made to continue the thrust north to the Arno River and Pisa ten miles away. All elements of the 1st Battalion which were not on outpost duty were moved

from the square they had originally occupied into an assembly area in an open field several blocks to the northeast of the square.

The Arno River Valley above Leghorn was a flat, level, canal-checked plain. Two main roads led out of Leghorn to the north: the coastal highway to Marina di Pisa, a small city located at the very mouth of the Arno River; and Highway 1, which led directly northeast to the city of Pisa, generally following the railroad tracks which also joined the two cities.

About two miles north of Leghorn on Highway 1 where it crossed a series of five large canals and several smaller ones, Highway 67, the main route to Florence, branched off to the east generally following the northernmost of the larger canals.

Lieutenant Eugene W. Shaw, acting Regimental S-2, took an interpreter and went about the hospitals in Leghorn interrogating Germans who had been left behind. In one of these hospitals he came across the German officer whose Volkswagen had been destroyed by the 1st Battalion column as it entered the city. He had lost a leg from the tank shelling, been picked up, and taken to the hospital. From him Shaw found out there had been two battalions of Germans in Leghorn, one of which the German commanded. One had withdrawn from the city at 1700 that afternoon as the American column closed in, and the other, his, had been ordered to withdraw at 2300. The officer had been in the process of rounding his people up when he had run into the task force in the dark.

The enemy, however, had not withdrawn far. They had pulled back north over the five large canals, exploded the charges already set under the bridges over the canals and taken up positions to oppose any further American advance. Meanwhile their artillery shelled the lost port and vicinity while American engineers went to work inside to remove booby traps and explode mines laid and scattered throughout the city.

On 20 July plans were made to secure crossings across the canals north of Leghorn and move north to the Arno River. At this time the entire Task Force Williamson was relieved of outpostting the city and both the 2d and 3d Battalions moved back to their old assembly area several miles east of Leghorn which they had occupied the night of 18 July when the 1st Battalion entered the seaport. The 1st Battalion was also in an assembly area along Highway 1 inside the city proper, but moved out at 1700, 20 July, to effect crossings of the canals. At the same time the 2d Platoon of the 91st Reconnaissance Troop under Lt. William Greenfield was planning on reconnoitering up the coastal road to Marina di Pisa at the mouth of the Arno.

At 0500, 20 July, the 1st Battalion company commanders and staff went forward to reconnoiter the area which they were to outpost, the Fosso Reale, third of the five canals. North of Leghorn the mortar convoy received artillery fire from beyond the canals but with the help of the 91st Reconnaissance Troop made their way up to the town of Stagno between the first two canals. After clearing the town with their small party they were forced to take cover in the vicinity of a church in Stagno, from heavy artillery and machine-gun fire.

This fire completely cut off their route of withdrawal in addition to severing the one communication wire to the battalion command post. Lt. Fabian E. Allen, now 1st Battalion S-2, went back through the artillery fire and contacted Lieutenant Colonel Woods, then returned with Cannon Company and artillery forward observers who directed fire by radio on the enemy positions.

Lieutenant Colonel Woods committed Company A behind smoke laid north of the canals by Cannon Company. The company took up positions astride the highways along the first canal, the Fosso Tora, while the reconnaissance group disengaged, returning to the battalion command post where a coordinated attack order was issued placing Company B on the left of Company A, Company C in reserve. The attack was supported by Company D mortars and the 347th Field Artillery.

At 1800 Companies A and B started the fire fight and with splendid mortar and artillery support drove the enemy back from his positions and across the canals, forming a bridgehead where engineers could complete the supply route.

The crossing of the first canal was made via a bypass constructed and mined by the Germans. The 1st Battalion captured the bridge over the second canal near the church at Stagno intact although 700 pounds of explosives were taken out of it the next day. The third and fourth canals were crossed by foot-bridges constructed under fire by the rifle companies and the battalion Ammunition and Pioneer Platoon from rocks, parts of the blown bridges, planks, and engineer sandbags brought up for the purpose. The last crossing was made easily by the foot elements because of faulty demolition by the Germans. Instead of being blown to pieces, as was usually the case when the thorough Germans did the job, this bridge merely broke in the middle, both ends remaining in position, the center resting on the bottom of the canal in a V shape. With a little planking in the middle the battalion walked down one side and up the other without getting its feet wet.

By 2200 Companies A and B were in positions north of the canals and dug in for the night. Contact was made with 135th Infantry, 34th Division, in the sector to the right.

Meanwhile the 2d and 3d Battalions moved up into assembly areas close to the five canals although they were not yet committed. While engineers went to work bridging the canals on 21 July, the 1st Battalion continued to attack to the north with the intermediate objective Stazione Tombolo (Tombolo RR Station) 3000 yards north of the five canals. This was taken at 1635 by Company B, which advanced another 2000 yards in its zone to the third phase line north of the canals, a straight road running across the task force sector. Companies A and C, however, ran into machine-gun fire in their zone and were held 1500 yards to the rear at the second phase line, a similar road. This machine-gun fire also held up the 2d Battalion which was moving into a new assembly area north of Stazione Tombolo. Therefore, the battalion cut off Highway 1 up which they had been advancing in an approach-march formation, swung east 1200 yards north of Stazione Tombolo, then took another left turn to meet the highway again at the overpass at Fta. Sofina, 5000 yards south of the city of Pisa. Here the 2d Battalion went into an assembly area with Companies C, A and B of the 1st Battalion echeloned along the road to the front and to the left on the third phase line, and sent patrols forward toward Pisa, which they had been ordered to take. The jump-off for Pisa was set at 0300, 23 July. Little further movement was made that night with the exception of the 3d Battalion, which marched along Highway 1 to a new assembly area just south of the 2d Battalion, closing at 1910. Here Company I was dispatched to the 347th Field Artillery Battalion for protection while the remainder of the battalion prepared to move on call to the vicinity of Pode M. Asolone in the same general area as the 2d Battalion.

On the morning of 22 July Lieutenant Colonel Woods issued an attack order and the 1st Battalion again resumed the push to the Arno on a frontage of 6000 yards with Company B in the left sector, Company A in the center and Company C in the right sector along Highway 1. At 1700 Company B reached a point less than a mile from the Arno without any opposition. One enemy prisoner revealed a strength of about 100 Germans in this area, also giving the locations of all manned strongpoints. Company A reached a point even with Company B but Company C had difficulty all day with constant artillery and machine-gun fire along their route of advance.

By 0100, 23 July, however, the 1st Battalion had reached the Arno River—the first unit to do so—and was deployed along its southern bank.

Two hours later the 2d Battalion jumped off as scheduled for Pisa. Company E, preceded by patrols, led the battalion attack. One of these nine patrols got as far as the very outskirts of the city on Highway 1 before receiving fire from Cimitero Nuovo (the new cemetery) and part of the factory district, 500 yards to the north. Another reached the airport on the east side of the highway a mile south of the city before receiving small-arms and machine-gun fire from a railroad overpass halfway from the airport to the outskirts of town.

Lieutenant Carberry, who had taken command of Company E when Captain Franks was wounded south of Chianni, planned to move down the highway in a column of platoons past the airport to the vicinity of the overpass, turn left there and deploy at Barra, 500 yards west of the highway, with his 1st Platoon on the left, 2d on the right, 3d in reserve; in this formation to proceed into town using the highway as his right boundary, the Navucelli Canal, flowing parallel, as his left.

However, upon moving forward to the point of deployment, advance elements discovered a branch canal running across their route, which was too deep and too wide to ford. The company had no bridging material on hand; therefore it swung back on the highway, moved up beyond the canal to redeploy near the cemetery and the group of houses just outside the western or factory end of the city.

Here the leading elements of the company were fired on first by a sentry; thirty seconds later the entire German final protective line of an estimated eighteen machine guns opened up. Company E, a little disorganized, pulled back 500 yards and sent patrols out to look for another route across the lateral canal. One of these patrols led by Corporal (later Lieutenant) Steven E. Angle moved around to the left flank and found that instead of one canal here, the left boundary, Navucelli Canal, was two canals with a dike in between. Leading his squad in the dark down the dike between the two canals Angle emplaced them flanking the enemy machine-gun positions and opened fire. Two platoons of Company E then moved forward on signal. The fight lasted for more than six hours, during which time the platoons, supported by their own heavy machine guns and mortars, either knocked the German guns out or forced their crews to withdraw one by one.

Company F, also with a platoon of Company H heavy machine guns, attacking under light enemy resistance to the right of Company E east of the highway, was now in position in and near the airport buildings with patrols sent forward on the east side of the highway. These patrols also ran into enemy forces on the outskirts of Pisa. The 2d Battalion forward command post with Companies H and G moved forward into positions to the rear of Company F.

As they crossed the airport from the southeast to the northwest corner, a previously located enemy machine gun in the northeast corner opened fire. The fire was high and no casualties were suffered as the companies continued across, arriving in position at 0430, 23 July 1944.

During darkness the fire power of Companies F, G and H machine guns, in addition to Company H's mortars, supported the Company E fight, which, with the coming of daylight spread to the airport engaging Company F and harassing the remainder of the battalion. Friendly supporting artillery was used but the enemy was well concealed and it was difficult to spot his positions. Enemy artillery fired scattered rounds at the airport and airport buildings but inflicted no casualties.

At 1130, 23 July, Companies E and F assaulted the enemy positions forcing the German withdrawal. Before leaving the enemy flooded the canals thus hampering, but not halting the advance. Once these positions were overrun the assault companies continued into the city of Pisa meeting only sporadic sniper fire and no organized resistance. Both companies proceeded to their prearranged sectors along the Arno River, setting up final protective lines and sending patrols down to the river banks. While this was going on the battalion command post with Companies G and H moved down Highway 1 into the city. The battalion was completely closed into southwestern Pisa by 1500, 23 July. The reserve, Company G, was committed to the right of Company F, thus giving three companies in line along the Arno. Company H added its mortar concentrations to the final protective line. During the organization of the 2d Battalion sector in Pisa enemy snipers were active. Starting when the advance elements moved in until the last man left heavy artillery and mortar fire from north of the Arno fell on the positions, killing two men and wounding nine more.

The 3d Battalion moved up following the 2d Battalion and infiltrated into Pisa in small groups, rendezvousing inside the town and taking up positions on the right of the 2d Battalion to the east of Highway 1.

At 0300 the following morning, 24 July, the 2d Battalion received an order to withdraw from Pisa and return to the assembly area near the overpass at Fte. Sofina from where it had jumped off for Pisa. This move was made down the highway under enemy artillery and sniper fire, besides that of the enemy patrols which were still operating in the sector at this time. The battalion closed into its assembly area just prior to dawn, 24 July.

During this relief the 2d Platoon, 91st Reconnaissance Troop, had advanced along the coastal road on the left of the regimental sector to Marina di Pisa, home of the Fiat seaplane works at the mouth of the Arno, where the Germans had elected to put up some resistance. The 1st Platoon of Company A, under Lieutenant Ross A. Notaro, reenforced with Lieutenant Carroll M. Plumb's heavy machine-gun platoon from Company D, was dispatched to go to Marina di Pisa and help the Reconnaissance Platoon clear the town.

Notaro and Plumb moved from the east flanking the enemy resistance and by late afternoon had Marina di Pisa well under control. With a second platoon from Company A under Lieutenant Charles D. Tharp, which arrived that afternoon, the town was well outposted.

The remainder of the battalion went into a bivouac area near Highway 1 within sight of the Leaning Tower the afternoon of 24 July and the following day established strongpoints along the river front from Pisa to Marina di Pisa, a distance of five miles which they held for the next several days. Meanwhile



Alert for enemy snipers, GIs of the 363d move across the Arno Valley toward the river and Pisa.

the 3d Battalion had cleared the whole of the southern part of Pisa and maintained observation posts along the river. Intense enemy artillery and mortar fire was encountered by the battalion during its stay.

The night of 28-29 July the 1st and 3d Battalions were relieved in position on the Arno River by elements of the 433th Antiaircraft Artillery (Automatic Weapons) Battalion which had been converted into infantry. The 2d Battalion, 363d Infantry, remained in its assembly area at Fte. Sofina, occupied when it moved out of Pisa, until 0600, 30 July, acting as reserve for the 433th AAA (AW) Battalion.

The 1st and 3d Battalions assembled in an area just east of Leghorn by 1800 29 July where Task Force Williamson was relieved of attachment to the 34th Division and returned to the control of the 91st Division. By 2100 that evening the first serial of the motor convoy had left, moving the two battalions to a 91st Division assembly area approximately 40 miles by road to the east and south of San Miniato.

On 29 July 1944, Field Order No. 8, Headquarters, 91st Infantry Division, was received, ordering Combat Team 363 to concentrate with the remainder of the Division in the Colleoli-Balconevisi area closing in from 29 July to 2 August preparatory to relieving elements of the 88th Infantry Division then outposting the Arno River in that sector some 40 miles by road east of Pisa.

During the hours of darkness of 29-30 July Combat Team 363 with one platoon of the 91st Reconnaissance Troop attached moved by truck and other organic transportation to their assembly area around Balconevisi where the command post was set up in a castle formerly used by the Germans as a hospital.

Upon closing in this area the 363d Infantry was attached to the 88th Infantry Division whose 350th Infantry command post was then located at Barbialla, three miles southeast of Balconevisi. Liaison was immediately established there when Colonel Magill and Lieutenant Colonel Murphy reported to the 350th Infantry command post on the morning of 30 July to complete plans for the relief of the 350th Infantry by the 363d Infantry, assuming the dual mission of protecting the Corps right and maintaining contact with the British Eighth Army. The forward positions almost on the banks of the Arno were to be held with minimum essential strength.

Operations instructions which were issued 30 July by Regimental Headquarters ordered the 2d Battalion into position along the boundary between the Fifth Army and the British Eighth Army to the right rear of the 362d Infantry which occupied the river positions. The 2d Battalion with the 347th Field Artillery Battalion and Cannon Company in support, and the platoon from the 91st Reconnaissance Troop attached, relieved the 350th Infantry the night of 30-31 July, maintaining contact with the Eighth Army and the 362d Infantry.

Meanwhile the 1st and 3d Battalions had moved into their assembly areas near Balconevisi.

Here between Florence and Pisa the Arno River flows west past the city of Empoli which was in the British Eighth Army sector. Two and a half miles west of Empoli the Fiume Elsa, a tributary no larger than a good-sized creek joins the Arno from the south and for 4500 yards from the river acted as the Army boundary. For several thousand yards on either side of the Arno the river valley is a tabletop flat lined with small tributaries, canals, and a fairly good network of unimproved roads. Farms checkerboard the fertile countryside between the vegetation-hidden streams.

On the south side of the Arno the Florence-Leghorn Highway 67 runs approximately parallel to the river with the highway crossing the railroad tracks near the Elsa River bridge and cutting north to the town of Empoli on the south bank of the Arno.

About 5000 yards south of the Arno and an equal distance west of the Elsa the city of San Miniato lies along the first east-west ridge line overlooking the highway, the railroad tracks, the Arno, and the ground a good distance to the north of the river. San Miniato had been bombed by the Air Corps, shelled by the artillery, and mined, booby-trapped and demolished by the retreating Germans. It was one of the thousands of towns which became victims of both advancing and retreating armies because, like so many others, it was built long ago for defense on high ground and possessed excellent observation of the surrounding countryside.

In spite of the beating the city took there were many Italians who chose not to evacuate San Miniato and there were, surprisingly enough, many sturdy homes and buildings along the debris-filled streets which were not touched by the war. The majority of structures, however, were merely shells.

The 2d Battalion, with Antitank Company under Captain William P. Gooldy and the 2d Platoon, 91st Reconnaissance Troop, attached, occupied the positions facing northeast on the Fifth-Eighth Army boundary from the night of 30 July to noon 12 August southeast of San Miniato. Elements of the 2d Battalion were in the towns of San Quintino and Campriano with a platoon of antitank guns; and along the unimproved road from Corniana past the church and cemetery to Mellicciano a mile and a half southeast. The battalion command post was located a thousand yards to the rear or southeast of these positions at Fornace.

A second platoon of antitank guns outposted the Castelnuovo road at the farmhouses Cojano with a third platoon two and a half miles south near Pod'e Codinagnoli protecting from an enemy armored attempt along the east-west road there. Between the two antitank platoons was the 2d Platoon of the 91st Reconnaissance Troop whose mission it was to contact the Eighth Army.

Meanwhile the 1st and 3d Battalions remained in assembly areas with Com-



Arno River Positions of the 363d Infantry.

pany C, 316th Medical Battalion and Company C, 316th Engineer Battalion. The 347th Field Artillery Battalion together with Cannon Company was in position to support the 2d Battalion by fire if need be along the San Miniato-Montaoine road in the vicinity of Balconevisi three miles south of San Miniato.

These positions behind the 362d Infantry remained unchanged until 11 August. The reserve units set up training schedules—mostly tactics, extended-order drill, physical training and sports—had their duffel bags trucked up from Bagni di Casciana, took showers and filled out absentee ballots for national and state elections to be mailed back to the States.

At 1300 the 1st Battalion received an order to move up under cover of darkness to a new assembly area preparatory to occupying positions on the outpost line along the river. At 1750 this order was rescinded. The next day, 11 August, at 1040 Division received a phone call from II Corps Headquarters to the effect that Fifth Army had granted permission for the 91st and the 2d New Zealand Division to move up and clear out the river bank. There were still enemy in Empoli. The 91st Division would take the Elsa River as its right boundary and proceed with operations as planned.

With this clearance from higher headquarters and the issuance of Field Order No. 9, 91st Division, at 1500, Field Order No. 4, 363 Infantry, was issued at 2330 for the relief of the 362d Infantry on line by the 363d Infantry with the 347th Field Artillery in direct support and the 178th Field Artillery Group (399th, 347th and 403d Field Artillery Battalions) in general support.

The 1st Battalion with a platoon of Company C, 316th Engineers, attached to clear mines and booby traps, relieved the 3d Battalion, 362d Infantry, in the right sector adjoining the Elsa River and the Army boundary and extending 4000 yards west to the San Miniato-Fucecchio road. With Company D, commanded by Captain George L. Lewis, Company B, led by Captain Lloyd J. Inman, moved in on the right and established contact with the 2d New Zealand by 0445, while Company A, commanded by Lieutenant William J. Regner, occupied the central zone of the battalion sector and Company C, led by Captain John W. Hayes, the left zone. There was no resistance, but scattered intermittent enemy artillery fire fell in the sector during the relief. Lieutenant Marcus L. Youngs, Company A, and two of his men had feet blown off when they stepped on a mine. These were the only casualties.

The following morning, 12 August, while the 3d Battalion was preparing to move up on the river, the 2d Battalion was relieved of its outpost positions on the Army border and moved into the Balconevisi assembly area. Antitank Company was also relieved of its roadblock positions the morning of the 12th and immediately began reconnaissance to select positions and coordinate anti-tank defense for the Regimental area along the Arno.

The 3d Battalion moved up to the left of the 1st Battalion sector the night of 12 August to relieve parts of the 1st and 3d Battalions, 362d Infantry. Reconnaissance had been made during daylight and the relief took place during the dark foggy night and early morning without casualties, and was completed by 0224, 13 August.

The 362d positions had been generally along the south side of Highway 67 2500 yards from the river with three squads outposting the railroad tracks a mile short of the river. Beyond this was no man's land.

The line of supports of the 1st and 3d Battalions was moved from the 362d

Infantry line on the highway 1500 yards forward to the railroad embankment or over halfway to the Arno.

During daylight, 13 August, the 1st Battalion sent patrols north of the railroad tracks to the small village of Roffia located in the flat land 700 yards from the river bank about in the middle of the battalion sector to reconnoiter for future strongpoint locations, while Company B established a platoon strongpoint in the town of Isola 400 yards from the Arno on the Elsa River.

The 3d Battalion also sent patrols up to the river to reconnoiter for strongpoints. One of these, a 20-man Company I patrol, while moving over the flat ground towards the church at San Pierino on the river bank, at 0330, 14 August, came under enemy mortar fire which killed one of its members and wounded nine more.

The 1st Battalion, 362d Infantry, which was still on line was placed under the operational control of the 363d Infantry when the latter assumed command of the sector at noon, 13 August.

During darkness on 13 August the 2d Battalion moved out of the Balconevisi assembly area and up to the line of supports along the railroad embankment to relieve the remainder of the 1st Battalion, 362d Infantry on the extreme left of the 363d Infantry sector. Where the 362d Infantry had had two battalions, the 363d Infantry now placed three on line, elements of each of which were designated as reserve and located so as to be moved quickly to any threatened point if need be. In addition Company K was named Regimental reserve and occupied an assembly area in the vicinity of Castiglioni where the 3d Battalion command post was located a mile west of San Miniato, the site of the 1st Battalion command post. Six trucks were made available to Company K for a possible quick move to any of the Regimental sectors. The 2d Battalion command post was at Montopoli, while Regiment set up in Monte Bicchieri, the former location of 362d Infantry command post, at 1800, 13 August. Contact was established and maintained with the 1st Armored Division, which took over the sector on the left, and with the 2d New Zealand Division on the right by patrols which met at contact points at prearranged times.

More strongpoints were advanced beyond the railroad embankment by the battalions on the nights of 13-14 August in addition to the planting of homemade trip flares and booby traps. It had been decided that the 363d Infantry would send patrols to the river and would also establish these strongpoints to stop or trap enemy patrols.

Company B cleared occupied Isola; Company A, Roffia. Company C advanced one platoon to an unnamed settlement 500 yards from the river bank in their sector. Company I, commanded by Captain Willie P. Kriel, on the right of the 3d Battalion zone, had outposts in and around San Pierino almost on the river banks while Company L, led by Captain Thomas M. Draney, on the left outposted the houses at Capponi just off the river on the banks of the tributary Evola. Company G, commanded by Captain Edward J. Conley, on the 2d Battalion right was on the Arno exactly where the river bent back to the railroad embankment at Buche S. Romano while Company F, led by Captain Eugene E. Crowden, was along the tracks in their left sector so close to the river that no further outposts needed to be sent out. Company E, the battalion reserve, was in and around Montopoli where the battalion command post was located.

Of all the outposts the one of Company I in San Pierino was the most dangerous. Here the Arno looped north forming a salient into the enemy territory.

San Pierino was in that salient. The Arno was low and fordable in August, only two feet deep in places, and each night German patrols would cross at different points to probe the defenses, attempt to determine the strength, and take prisoners to be questioned concerning the possibilities of the Allies forcing a river crossing. These patrols were either engaged and killed, captured or driven off when detected.

The enemy across the river could be spotted too if he moved around much in daylight and his installations located. There was a German position at the bridge site across the Arno just west of Isola held by company strength—40 to 50 men. The company was relieved every four days between 2330 and 2400. While the 363d Infantry occupied the sector it was known that at least the 5th, 6th and 7th Companies, Lehr Regiment, 26th Panzergrenadier Division, were in that position at one time. A German aid station was spotted in a farmhouse 1000 yards across the river from Company A's outpost in Roffia along with several tanks and vehicles near the church at Gavena 500 yards west of the aid station. A camouflaged installation near Ripoli across the river from the Company C outpost was discovered and fired on by the 347th Field Artillery which made several hits. Three Germans were seen leaving the area. An enemy vehicle, one of three, was believed knocked out by the artillery near Ripoli a short while later. The other two moved out of sight leaving the third behind.

Just before midnight, 14-15 August, the Company A strongpoint in Roffia was alerted by several of its trip flares being set off. Machine guns opened fire. In the light of the flares the enemy patrol which stumbled across the wires was estimated to contain from 10 to 20 Germans. Immediately the prepared Company D 81mm mortar concentrations were placed on the patrol and the enemy fire ceased. Enemy casualties—undetermined. The 363d Infantry—none. Results of action—patrol dispersed and driven off.

During the stay on the line enemy infiltration, harassing artillery and mortar fire continued with occasional machine-gun fire. On the night of 15 August Company B at Isola received a direct hit on the right flank of its strongpoint which wounded one man and knocked out one of the attached Company D heavy machine guns. This was at 1945. Another man from Company B was wounded when the patrol he was out with ran into *Schü* mines which were sown so thickly on the river bank that the patrol was forced to return. One Company C listening post reached the bank and returned after an hour reporting their mission completed—no sign of enemy activity. However, at 0100 an enemy patrol infiltrated across the river and was intercepted, fired on and dispersed by machine-gun and mortar fire. Any casualties suffered by the enemy were not known.

A patrol from Company F found several of their communication lines cut plus fifteen box and one *Schü* mines strewn in the vicinity.

The 3d Platoon of Company I, under Lieutenant Robert M. Sutton, had its command post located in a house along the San Miniato-Fucecchio road about 500 yards from the river bank. That night about 2300 just as a patrol led by Lieutenant Theodore M. Enochs, Jr., from the west made contact with the platoon a German patrol in strength drove in the outposts, attacked the house and withdrew with ten men and two officer prisoners before reinforcements could be brought to the scene.

Field Order No. 11, issued at 1200, 16 August, by Headquarters 91st Divi-

sion, stated that the Division would be relieved by elements of the 85th Infantry Division by 0430, 17 August, at which time they would relinquish command of the sector.

The 363d Infantry would be relieved by the 337th Infantry and would reassemble in the vicinity of Balconevisi in preparation for movement to a designated training area the night of 17-18 August.

Patrols continued their normal activity until 0430, 17 August, to reinforce all security measures taken to disguise evidence of a relief. One officer per company and one noncommissioned officer per platoon remained with the relieving units for twenty-four hours after the relief to assist in orienting the new men.

The 347th Field Artillery was relieved by the 328th Field Artillery and coordinated its move to the assembly area with Colonel Magill.

By the ordered hour the relief was completed under heavy harassing mortar and artillery concentrations. The only casualty was from a Company F patrol which operated along the river bank as usual, this time encountering enemy fire which separated the patrol. One man known to be wounded was lost.

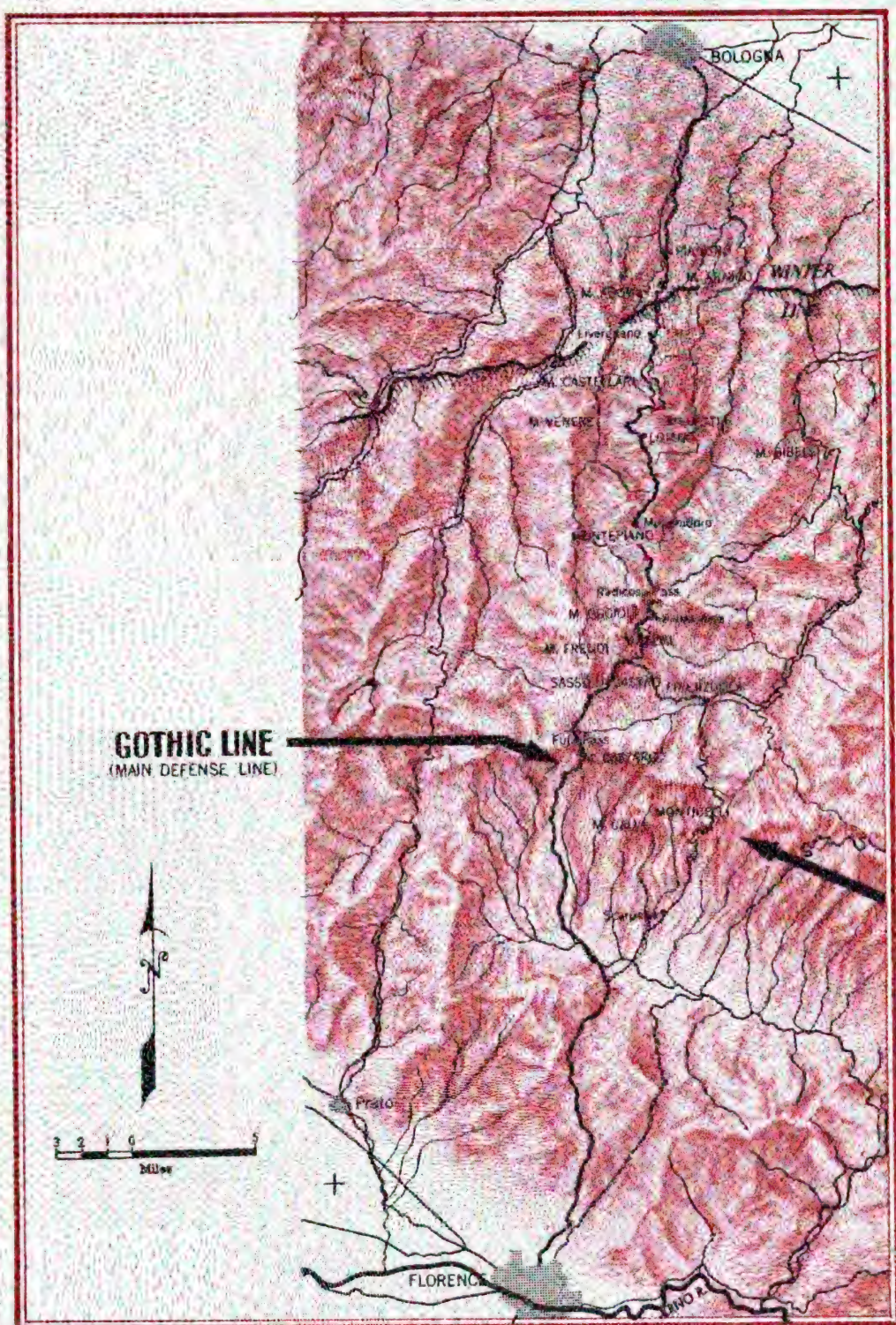
The night of 17 August the 363d Infantry and 347th Field Artillery, Company C of 316th Medics, and 755th Tank Battalion moved by motor convoy in five serials to a rear training area near Certaldo arriving just before dawn the next morning. Because the new area had been thickly planted with *Schü* mines it was necessary for advance parties to be accompanied by ammunition and pioneer and antitank mine sweepers who went over the bivouac areas prior to the arrival of the troops. In the blackout move over unknown narrow shell-pocked dirt roads a 2½-ton truck, one 1½-ton truck and one jeep overturned, killing one man and injuring seventeen others.

From 18 August to 6 September the regiment remained in the assembly area near Certaldo engaged in training, rest, recuperation and reorganization.

Throughout the stay near Certaldo the 363d Infantry was subjected to almost nightly visits from the Luftwaffe, although 30 miles behind the lines. Just before midnight of 28-29 August a lone German plane familiarly known as "Bedcheck Charlie" or "Herman the German" flew over and dumped his load of bombs on Certaldo causing ten or twelve sharp explosions and starting half a dozen buildings blazing from incendiary bombs. While military police and fire-fighting units attempted to get things under control and ambulances stood by Charlie turned around and headed for Poggibonse strafing and bombing a motor convoy two miles out of Certaldo. One gasoline truck was hit and overturned, but after twenty minutes the convoy had re-formed and was on its way again. As far as could be ascertained in Certaldo there were no casualties except a few persons injured by flying bricks; no one was seriously hurt.

Deemed the most important phase of the training at the time was an extensive course in river crossing conducted jointly with the 316th Engineer Battalion, wherein each infantry battalion made a crossing of the Elsa River near Certaldo. Together with company and battalion attack problems this training could only suggest one thing—the 363d Infantry was going to help in forcing a crossing of the Arno in the near future.

However, British XIII Corps had moved up to the southern banks of the Arno in the Florence area by 7 August with advance patrols entering the outskirts of that part of the city lying south of the river. Next day strong patrols from the British 4th Division crossed the Arno east of Florence.



From Florence to Bologna.



Lt. Col. Harry M. Grizzard, Regimental Executive Officer

Normal patrolling of the southern bank was carried on until the night of 10-11 August at which time the British 1st Division relieved the 4th Division, and the following night crossed three companies over the river east of Florence.

Encouraged by the proximity of Allied troops, the Florentine Partisans went to work and cleared the "old city," that part of Florence lying north of Arno. The Germans withdrew to the Mugnone Canal on the northern outskirts of the city and at 1800, 16 August, the 2d Infantry Brigade of the British 1st Division assumed control of the Florence sector.

From then until 20 August the Germans north of the city continued to be very sensitive, responding with sharp reactions to British patrol activity. On 23 August patrols which went out made no contact with the enemy. British XIII Corps reported evidence of a deep German withdrawal and followed up closely.

The Fifth Army had been making plans for the continuance of its offensive across the Arno River in the direction of Florence and Bologna with corps abreast, IV Corps on the left, II Corps on the right, moving across the Arno east of Florence in Phase I of the attack. Phase II conducted further operations to the north to penetrate the Gothic Line. On the II Corps right flank was British XIII Corps which had the mission of advancing along the Florence-Firenzuola-Imola highway (6524) protecting the Fifth Army's right flank and assisting the advance of II Corps.

The 363d Infantry making the main effort on the extreme right of the II Corps zone with the 362d Infantry on their left, 361st Infantry in reserve, was to cross the Arno two battalions abreast, secure a bridgehead and reorganize before continuing the advance towards the objective. Establishing and maintaining contact with XIII Corps on the right and protecting the Division's right flank was also part of the 363d Infantry's mission. Monte Calvana was entirely the 363d Infantry's objective while both the 362d and 363d Infantry Regiments would combine operations on Bivigliano and Monte Senario.

That was the original plan. However, with the advance of the British across the Arno in the Florence area and the withdrawal of the Germans to the north, a river forcing by the 363d Infantry was unnecessary. Reconnaissance elements which had been sent to join XIII Corps in the future 363d Infantry area continued north with them in the attack. These officers and men spent several weeks with the British wearing their uniforms, to prevent the enemy from locating the 91st Division in case of their capture, and observing British methods of warfare, rejoining their regiment when it went into an assembly area north of the Arno on 6 September.

With the issuance of a movement order by Division the afternoon of 4 September, the 363d Infantry and Company D of the 84th Chemical Mortar Battalion, attached, moved from the training area near Certaldo by truck in the order: 2d Battalion, Antitank Company, Regimental Headquarters, Cannon Company, 1st Battalion, 3d Battalion. Crossing the initial point at midnight, traveling in close column blackout at ten miles per hour with no route signs posted because of security, the units closed into the new assembly area by 0500, 5 September.

This area just east of Bagni a Ripoli overlooking the south bank of the Arno was substituted for the rear assembly area described in Division Field Order No. 12 because of the British advance making such a rear area unnecessary. It was substituted for the forward assembly area described in the same order because it had the same advantages but not the disadvantages of a poor roadnet and the location in rather rugged country.

The entire Division was now assembled in the area between Florence and the town of Pontassieve, on the south side of the Arno. The night of 5 September the Regiment moved out on foot, crossed the Arno River and climbed back into the mountains north of Florence. Here it assembled in the area surrounding the town of Monteloro about seven miles northeast of Florence, where it was rejoined by the reconnaissance groups which had been with the British and aided in the selection of the assembly area. The Regiment closed at 0500, 6 September.

All indications pointed to the 91st being committed in the pursuit. The Division operations officer (G-3) called up at 0730 the morning of 6 September just after the Regiment had closed at Monteloro with the advice to go ahead with planning but be ready to move forward to another assembly area before jumping off in the attack. That afternoon at 1400 General Williamson visited the bivouac area and said to be prepared to cross the line of departure at 0200—363d might be called upon to pursue anytime on Corps order only. General Livesay reiterated General Williamson's statement a half hour later.

Field Order No. 5, 363d Infantry, was issued the morning of 6 September when the warning order was received from G-3, and reconnaissance of the area concerned in the attack order continued.

The Regimental plan called for the 1st Battalion on the right to seize Hill 878 along the "roof peak" between the Sieve and Arno Valleys, then continue north and capture the high ground to the west of Borgo San Lorenzo on the Sieve River, thus causing the fall of that city. The 2d Battalion on the left of the Regimental sector would attack and seize Mt. Calvana, just adjoining the 1st Battalion's objective, then proceed immediately for the high ridge line paralleling Highway 65 on the left and pointing directly to the city of San Piero a Sieve. The 3d Battalion was to be initially in reserve closely following the 1st Battalion until Hill 878 fell, then was to advance and seize crossing sites across the Sieve River midway between San Piero and San Lorenzo.

No Corps order to move came down and at 1830, 6 September, the alert for a move that night was cancelled. Again the next day at 1717 word was received that there would be no movement of troops that night—a minimum of twenty-four hours delay was expected.

Meanwhile the British had continued the pursuit and had taken Monte Senario and its convent with a battalion of the 2d Foresters, plus the town of Bivigliano at the foot of the mountain with a company. This outflanked the proposed initial objectives of the 363d Infantry, Hill 878 and Mt. Calvana. By the night of 7 September the British found things moving along so nicely that they planned on sending two companies up Mt. Calvana in the morning.

With this progress which moved the front lines beyond the Phase I objectives of the 91st Division, a new plan and new left boundary was evolved for the execution of Phase II of the attack—further operations to the north to penetrate the Gothic Line.

The 7th of September was spent in further planning for the forward movement in a new sector just to the left toward Monte Senario and on the next day orders were received to move at 1900, 9 September to an assembly area in and around Bivigliano which the 2d Foresters had taken and now outposted.

The mission of the 91st Division was to attack in its zone just east of Highway 65 with two regiments abreast and seize crossings over the Sieve River between the highway and San Piero a Sieve 9000 yards to the east. On the left of the Division was the 34th Division; on the right, British XIII Corps.

With Company D, 84th Chemical Mortar Battalion, and two rocket tanks attached, the 363d Infantry was to seize its successive objectives without pause and keep contact with the British besides protecting the Division's right flank. The 362d Infantry was attacking on the left of the Division zone astride Highway 65 with the 361st Infantry in reserve near Fontesecca on the highway five miles north of Florence.

The objective of the 363d Infantry was the ridge east of the highway pointing to San Piero a Sieve; the line of departure for both attacking regiments was the road running east-west across the sector from Bivigliano to Vaglia on the highway.

The 363d Infantry moved up to Bivigliano the night of 9 September on foot and by truck closing into the forward assembly area with the remainder of the Division at 0100, 10 September. At 0530, 10 September, the two attacking units—2d Battalion on the left, 1st Battalion on the right—crossed the line of departure and moved on foot toward the Sieve River five miles to the north, meeting little or no resistance; all indications were that the enemy was pulling back to his Gothic Line positions leaving only local security or none south of the Sieve.

The 2d Battalion cut north and west through its sector joining with Highway 65, the Florence-Bologna railroad which had been systematically demolished by the enemy, and the tributary Carza which flowed into the Sieve at San Piero. These three, the highway, railroad and stream, were intertwined from the top of the terrain watershed to just south of San Piero where Highway 65 forked sharply to the northwest through Futa Pass, and Highway 6524 (to San Piero-Scarperia-Firenzuola and Imola) continued north through Il Giogo Pass. This Highway 6524 was to become the main supply route of the 363d Infantry for the next several days until the Gothic Line was broken.

The 1st Battalion on the right, followed by the 3d Battalion, continued north across country along the ridge line toward San Piero.

At 1050, 10 September, because of the rapid unopposed progress, General Livesay sent a message to his regimental commanders, "Do not stop on Orange Line [marking the proposed bridgehead across the Sieve River]. Continue on in present zone extended as far as you can get. A new order extending boundaries will be out this afternoon."

By 1500 Company A was on the banks of the Sieve just east of the town of San Piero, Company B just southwest of the town, and Company C occupying a fort overlooking San Piero from the west. No casualties had been suffered. The 2d Battalion was on the river line two thousand yards to the west near Cafaggiolo. While reconnaissances of the river banks were going on the reserve 3d Battalion moved up into San Piero with the 1st Battalion.

At noon, 10 September, a motorized patrol made up of Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon members moved out of the settlement of Poggio Fondello to search for crossing sites of the Sieve in the vicinity of San Piero or until they contacted the enemy.

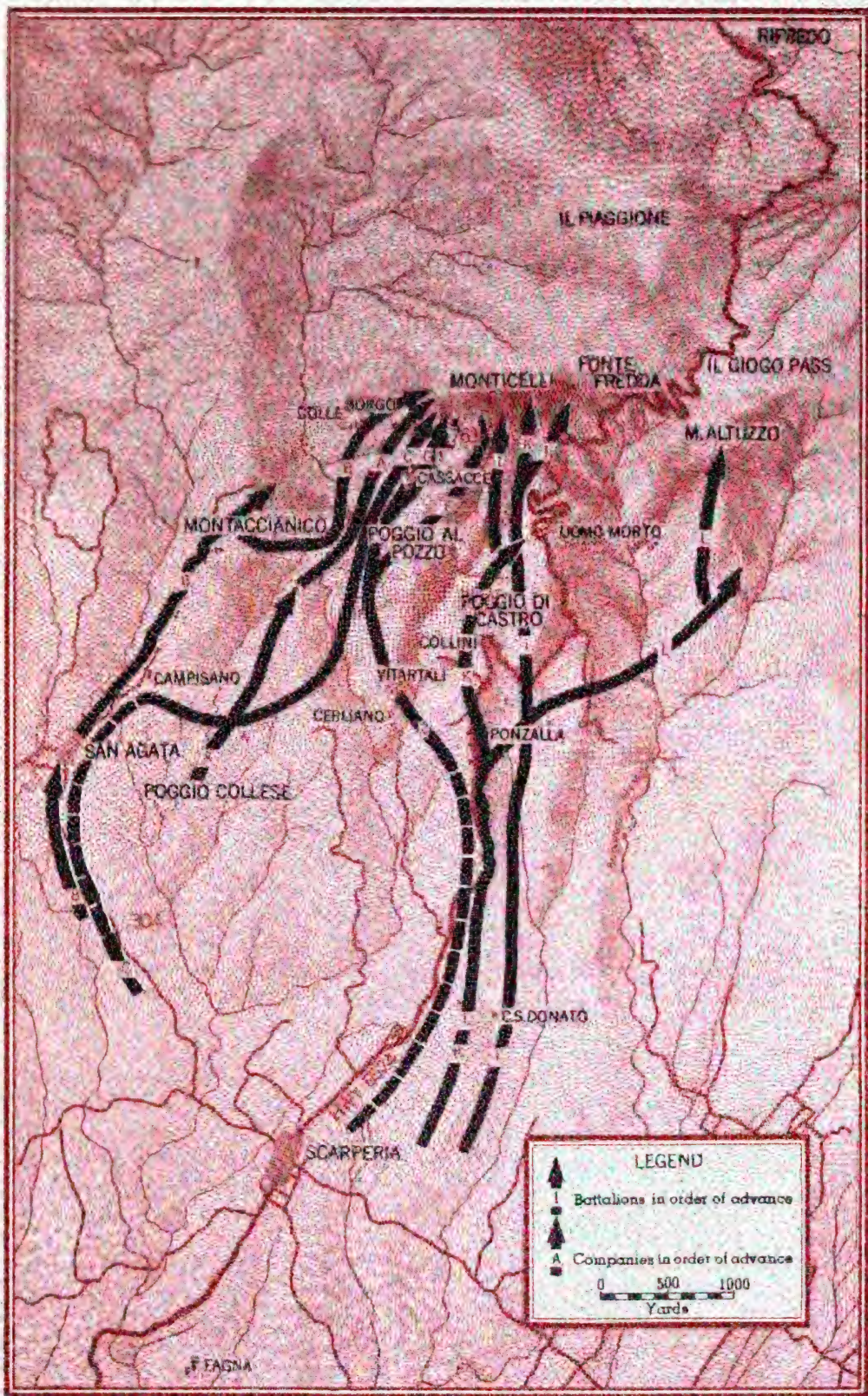
We passed through the forward elements of our 2d Battalion near the road junction of Highway 65 and the San Piero road. The latter was blown out so we tried 65, then turned right along the road on the south bank of the Sieve and headed toward San Piero. While examining a possible crossing site we drew a barrage of 88s from two different directions on the other side of the river.

After taking cover we saw the old Forte San Martino above us on the hill, hopped back in our vehicles and sped up the hill and right through the north portals just in time to meet our 1st Battalion coming in from the south. At first the natives living there thought we were Jerries because we had come from the wrong direction and when they found out that we were Americans made quite a fuss over us—wine, kisses, etc.

We left via the south door—and reported to Regiment, later that day returning to the fort setting up an outpost from where we directed fire on groups of enemy spotted beyond the river.

With reconnaissance of the river and information from the *paesanos* and engineers on location of enemy minefields in the river and on its banks, the 363d Infantry selected two crossing sites—one in the 2d Battalion sector in the vicinity of Cafaggiolo, the other in the 1st Battalion sector at San Piero, over which Company A advanced elements by 1700, 10 September. Plans were completed during the afternoon by which the 1st and 2d Battalions would cross under cover of darkness in their respective areas, with the reserve 3d Battalion to remain on the south side of the river during the night.

As General Livesay's message had said, Field Order No. 15 was delivered to Regimental headquarters from the Division command post at 1830 the afternoon of 10 September broadening the Division sector, extending the boundaries and naming the objectives.



The Gothic Line.



Two members of the Regiment take a good look at the Gothic Line after the attack.

spotting twenty huts which housed Todt labor organization workers who were working on the defenses, but failed to locate on the ground more than one pillbox, a few machine-gun emplacements covering two belts of knee-high barbed wire six to eight yards deep suggesting minefields, and several gun positions. Although aerial photos showed Futa Pass to be the more heavily defended of the two, they also showed Il Giogo to be well suited for defense because of the excellent setting of rugged terrain features.

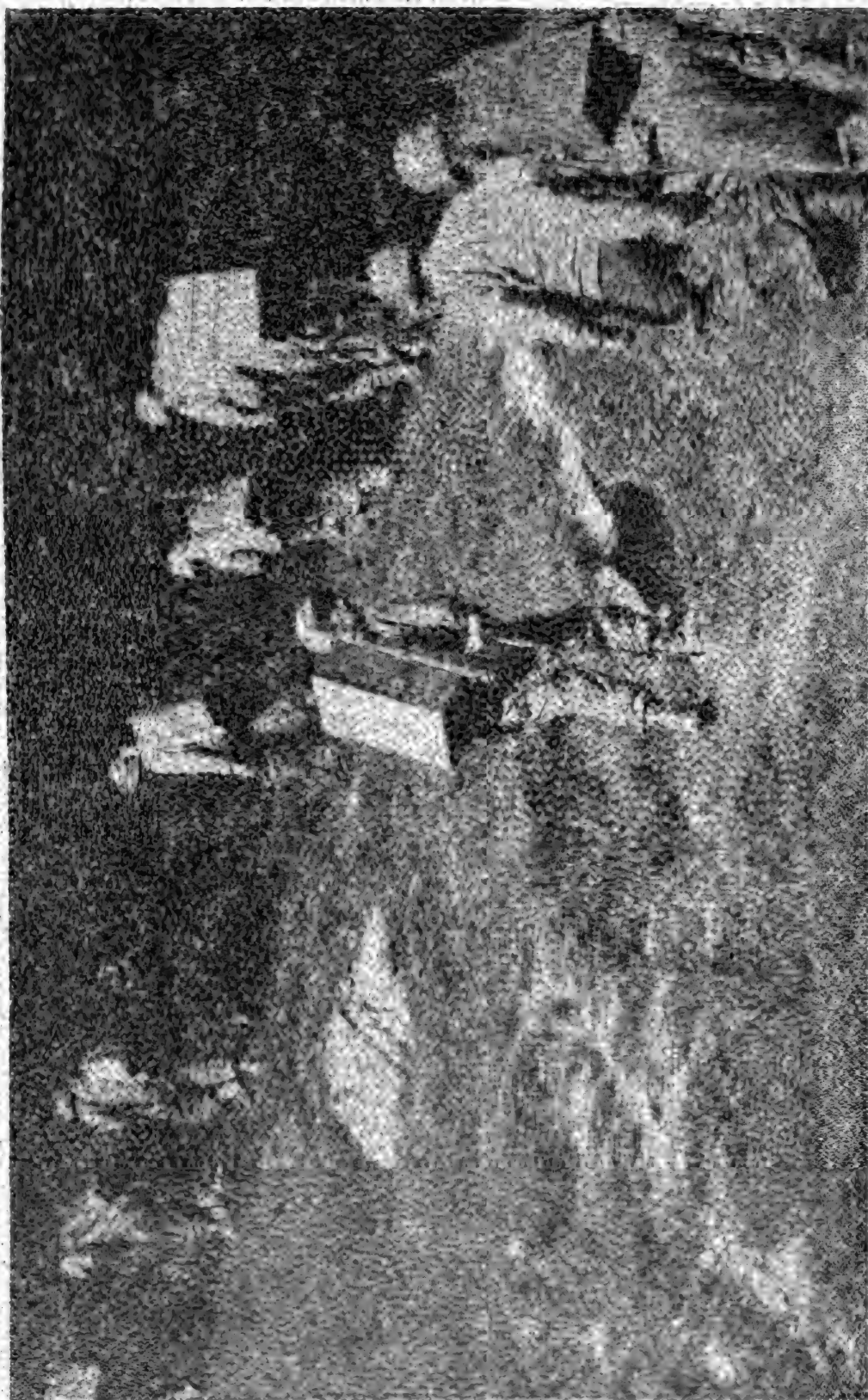
Two hill masses, one on either side of the road, commanded the route through Il Giogo Pass. On the western side was Monticelli, 2390 feet in elevation, its bulk disposed over an area of three square kilometers, a long, high, steep backbone ridge running to the northwest. Extending south from Monticelli were two spurs connected to the parent ridge by narrow saddles—Poggio al Pozzo on the west, Poggio di Castro on the east bordered by Highway 6524.

The sharp slopes of Monticelli were lined with three steep draws, the one farthest east leading to the highest point, the other two on the face of the western ridge separated by a nose numbered 763. No semblance of cover sheltered the sides of Monticelli, which were used as grazing land for the local *paesano* sheep, save the gullies worn in the slopes by rains. The only concealment was what scrub brush and a grove of chestnut trees near the farmhouse Borgo on the western ridge furnished.

Bare, rocky, steep, rugged Monticelli was well selected to guard Il Giogo.

To the east, just across the road from Monticelli, was Mt. Altuzzo. Higher by 110 feet, equally as precipitous and as rugged, Altuzzo offered more concealment to advancing infantry and had not the huge bulk that Monticelli possessed. It was, however, a worthy co-sentinel.

These two mountains overlooking the highway in Il Giogo Pass were mutually supporting and even though one should fall the other still denied to the American forces the use of the road running through the pass.



A ration detail climbs over the wooded mountains to carry food, water, and ammunition to their company.

The Fifth Army was drawn up for the Gothic Line battle with three corps abreast. II Corps was to make the main effort flanked on the left by IV Corps and on the right by the attached British XIII Corps. II Corps placed the 91st Division on Highway 65 east to XIII Corps boundary to make the main effort; the 34th Division on their left, and kept two divisions in reserve to exploit the breakthrough once it was made—possibly as far as the Po Valley.

Faced with both Futa Pass and Il Giogo Pass, the 91st Division planned its sectors with the 362d Infantry on the left facing Futa Pass, the 363d Infantry making the main effort on the right facing Il Giogo, the 361st Infantry initially in reserve.

The tactics involved called for the 362d Infantry to advance its 3d Battalion generally along Highway 65 in an ever aggressive frontal attack against Futa Pass defenses while the other two battalions were to flank Futa Pass by attacking between there and Il Giogo seizing Mts. Calvi, Linari, Alto, Grazzaro, to come in behind the Futa Pass defenses in an inner envelopment thus making those defenses untenable to the enemy.

The 363d Infantry in the main effort which was to be hurled against Il Giogo Pass, was to advance generally along Highway 6524, seize Monticelli, Mt. Altuzzo, Castel Guerrino, and Mt. Veruca thus outflanking Futa Pass in an outer envelopment. Once a breach had been made here at Il Giogo the Corps' reserve, the 85th and 88th Divisions, were to be committed to enlarge it and pursue the enemy north towards Bologna.

Attached to the 363d Infantry by Division Field Order No. 15 (101500B September 1944) were the 755th Tank Battalion; one company of the 804th Tank Destroyer Battalion; and Company C of the 84th Chemical Battalion (motorized). Cannon Company and the 347th Field Artillery Battalion were in direct support with the 916th Field Artillery in general support reinforcing their fires. Company C, 316th Engineer Battalion, and Company C, 316th Medical Battalion, were in direct support.

All elements of the Division were to maintain aggressive contact with the enemy at all times, bypass towns and strongpoints which were to be reduced by reserve elements from the rear, and be prepared to continue the attack to the north or to exploit enemy weakness or withdrawal on Division order. Reserves were kept well forward for this purpose.

Recent intelligence pointed to the fact that the enemy was in the process of withdrawing the bulk of his troops to the Gothic Line where work was still continuing on the fortifications. With the exception of the 16th SS Panzer-grenadier Division, indications were that all the mobile divisions had been withdrawn from the Fifth Army front. One, the 29th Panzergrenadier Division, which had withdrawn from the II Corps front a short time before, was figured likely to move to the Adriatic sector to reinforce against the threatened breakthrough by the British Eighth Army in the Rimini area.

The amount of labor and material which the enemy had devoted to the fortifications in the Gothic Line and the fact that the Todt organization was still working on the emplacements indicated a strong defense; however, a rapid breakthrough by the British in the Rimini sector followed by a threat toward Bologna would cause the German elements to be withdrawn more quickly from the naturally defensible terrain of Futa Pass, Il Giogo Pass, and the other central locations. Fairly reliable reports that Italian Fascist divisions were to be committed in the Gothic Line indicated that possibly the German elements would

be withdrawn under the screen of these Italian forces. Perhaps a list of German units from which the 363d Infantry took prisoners during the Gothic Line battle would most graphically illustrate in what strength the sector was held; from the 4th German Paratroop Division: 10th Regiment, 4th, 5th, 6th, 10th Companies; 11th Regiment, 7th Company; 12th Sturm (assault) Regiment, 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 10th, 15th Companies (two complete battalions and one rifle company plus the regimental engineer company committed as infantry); 1st, 2d Companies, 11th Paratroop Reconnaissance Battalion; 1st, 3d Companies, Antitank Battalion. In addition to these, prisoners were also taken from a Lithuanian company and from one company of the Lehr Brigade.

Patrols from Company A had already crossed the Sieve River in the afternoon. The remainder of Company A led the 1st Battalion column of companies in wading across the river after dark the night of 10 September at the bombed-out bridge site at San Piero. Nearby, Company C, 316th Engineer Battalion, was putting in a bridge to move the transportation across the shallow stream while the enemy shelled the crossing site intermittently. Companies B and C followed at 2130 and by midnight the entire battalion, less the mortar platoon of Company D, was on the north side of the Sieve. One machine-gun platoon each was attached to Companies A and B with the mortars emplaced at San Piero to support the attack if needed. They displaced forward early the next morning.

Company E, with a platoon of heavy machine guns attached from Company H, led the 2d Battalion crossing by shortly after midnight several hundred yards west of San Piero. Company G, with a second platoon of machine guns, followed closely behind and by 0250, 11 September, the battalion had completed the crossing.

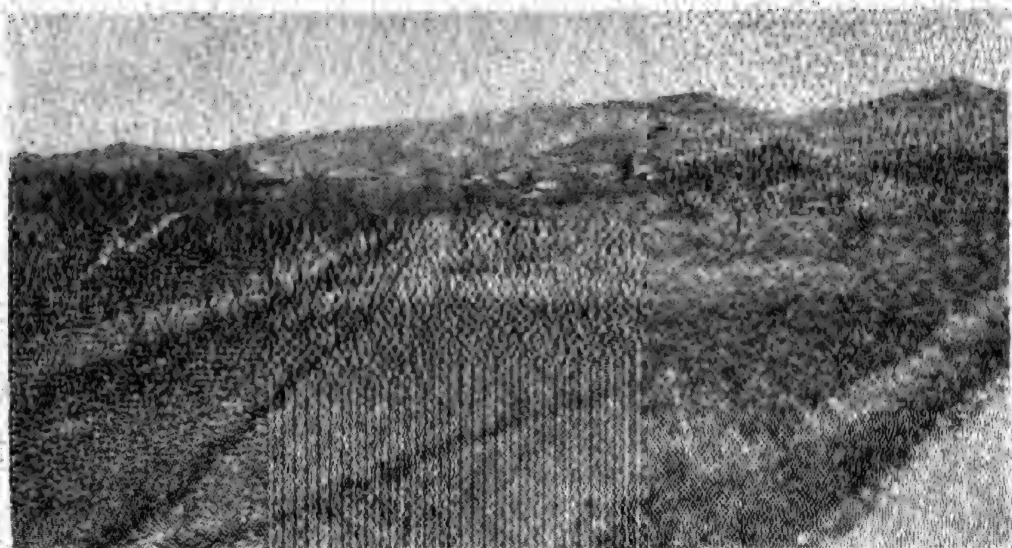
The 3d Battalion moved out of its San Piero assembly area at 0400 following the route used by the 1st Battalion and were all across by dawn when the engineer bridge was completed and opened for vehicular traffic.

Not one casualty had been suffered by the Regiment in the Sieve River crossing.

Once north of the Sieve the 1st Battalion proceeded toward the town of San Agata in accordance with the recent boundary change to the right, the 3d Battalion moved east of Highway 6524 north toward Scarperia, while the 2d Battalion reverted to Regimental reserve and crossed behind the 1st Battalion to an assembly area.

The leading companies of the 1st and 3d Battalions moved forward rapidly receiving only harassing mortar, artillery, and long-range machine-gun fire from the enemy. No physical contact was established until 0930 when two German officers and three men attempted to put up resistance against Company L at Fagna, a group of buildings about a mile north of the river. After two of the Germans were killed and a third wounded the other two were taken prisoner and marched back to the PW inclosure.

By this time the softening up ahead of the ground troops was begun by the Tactical Air Force. Under the pummelling of 300 medium bombers and 500 fighters directing their bombs at and around Il Giogo Pass the enemy kept his head pretty well down, and as a result the artillery, mortar, and machine-gun fire directed at the infantry ceased. To the rapidly advancing foot soldier looking across the several miles of flat valley floor the dark silhouettes of the



Monticelli and Mt. Altuzzo (right) as they appear from the town of San Agata in the 1st Battalion sector.

mountains which formed the Gothic Line melted into one solid 3000-foot-high wall stretching across the horizon spotted with flashes and billowing with smoke from the bombardment it was now receiving.

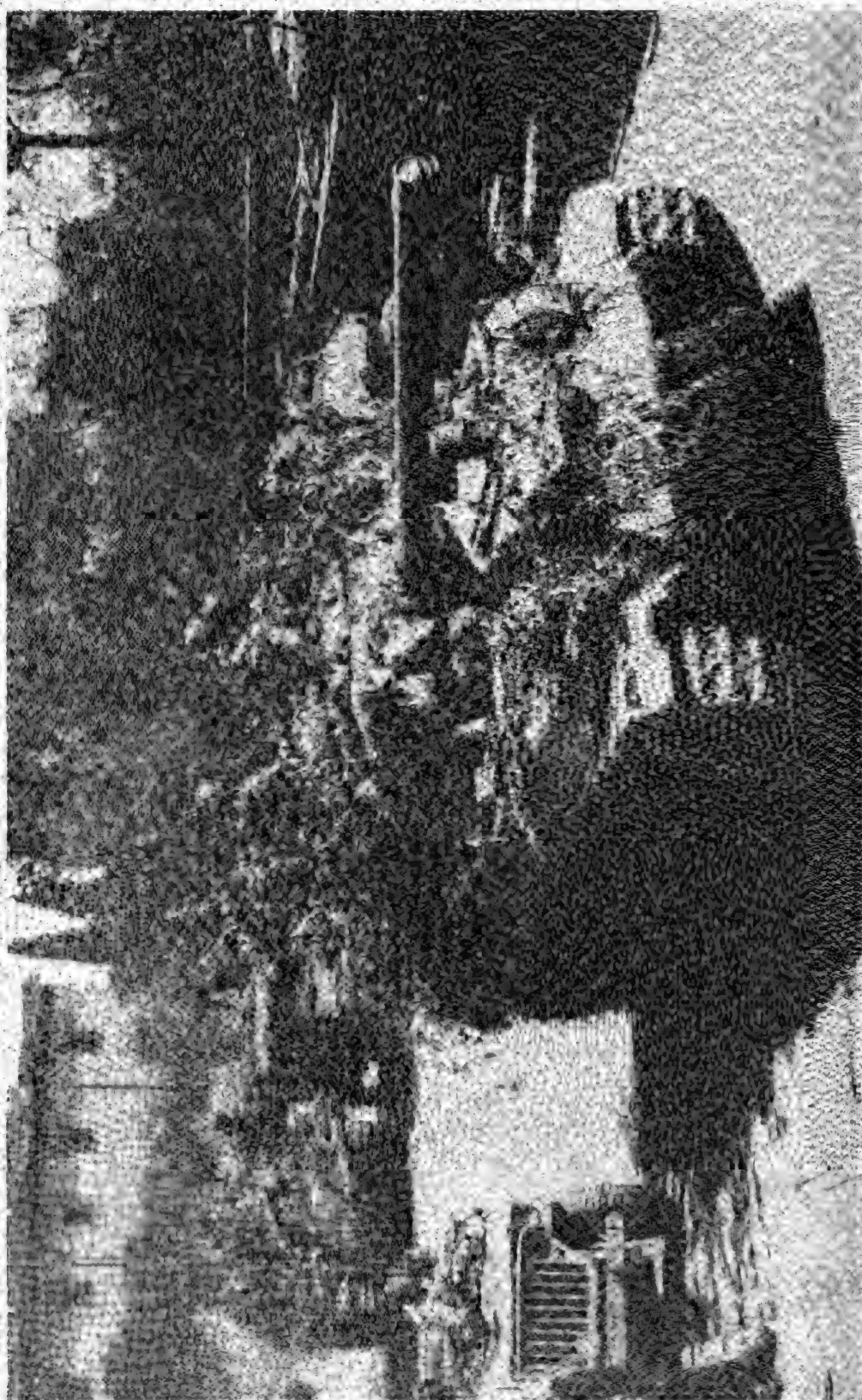
Shortly after noon Company B on the left of the 1st Battalion had reached San Agata, the small town a mile northwest of Scarperia, with Company A 500 yards to their right at the ridge Poggio Collese. Company C was in reserve slightly to the rear of Company A near Hill 304 just about halfway between San Agata and Scarperia. Scarperia had been bypassed by the companies of the 3d Battalion which were now 6000 yards north of the Sieve River and even with the 1st Battalion's front lines. Company K in reserve was located in a convenient draw near the farm C.S. Donato northeast of Scarperia.

Meanwhile the reserve 2d Battalion had followed the advance of the 3d Battalion to Fagna, where Company I had earlier found the five Germans, and assembled there while Company F under Captain Crowden moved into bypassed Scarperia finding the town vacated by the enemy. Positions were set up and manned 300 yards north of the town astride the highway. The Regimental command post opened in Scarperia immediately after Company F had cleared the town.

By nightfall, 11 September, the first day after crossing the Sieve River, the companies were disposed on a line three and half miles north of the river. Six prisoners had been taken. Casualties were suffered both from enemy minefields sown in the valley and also from the harassing artillery and mortar fire received early in the morning, but in view of the advances made and the fact that they were made against a formidable defense system, the list was gratifyingly short.

During the night the leading battalions improved communications and made preparations for a coordinated attack again the next day. At 0800 hours, 12 September, under a smoke screen fired by chemical mortars they jumped off, laying telephone wires as they moved forward.

The 1st Battalion, attacking on the left up the San Agata road with two companies abreast, advanced Company B generally along the road with Company



Tank destroyers move up to support the Division attack on Il Gogo positions of the Gothic Line.

A 500 yards to the right moving up a northwest-southeast draw. Both made good progress against harassing artillery and by 1030 Company B was on the north slope of Montaccianico, a mile from the line of departure, and Company A had moved to the head of the draw near Hill 443. Company C moved its reserve position to the settlement of Campisano north of San Agata behind Company B.

The 3d Battalion on the right was also meeting little outpost resistance. Harassed occasionally by machine pistols and enemy artillery they pushed steadily forward, Company K on the left for Monticelli, Company I on the right of Highway 6524 for Fonte Fredda just northeast of Monticelli. Company L followed Company I at 800 yards with the mission of cutting off to the east and taking Mt. Altuzzo.

No enemy contact was made until the advance elements had passed the town of Ponzalla and crossed the highway where it made a hairpin turn to the south, then east, and north again skirting Poggio di Castro, the 1567-foot-high ridge pointing to Monticelli. As Company I crossed the highway it received fire from the enemy outposts holding the ridge. Returning the fire, and with the artillery supporting, the company fought its way halfway up the slope while Company K continued around the west side of the ridge through the draw again joining up with the highway at l' Uomo Morto, thus cutting off the enemy on Poggio di Castro. With the pressure relieved, Company I advanced along the ridge to the northern saddle where it received such a pounding from enemy artillery observed from Monticelli that Captain Kriel requested permission to pull back to the reverse slope for reorganization. It was granted and the company took up positions on the protected side of Poggio di Castro—this by early afternoon, 12 September.

Meanwhile elements of the 362d Infantry on the left were attacking Mt. Calvi and meeting heavy resistance. This left the west flank of the 1st Battalion open to all types of enemy fire from the Mt. Calvi area.

Coordinating with the 3d Battalion, the 1st Battalion prepared to attack Monticelli under cover of darkness to continue the constant pressure and secure an early penetration. Both Monticelli and Mt. Altuzzo, which Company L was attacking, were to be marked by the artillery dropping white phosphorus on their respective peaks every few minutes so that the attackers would be able to locate their objectives in the dark and also plot their location on the map.

At nightfall the Germans laid down their planned defensive fires. At 2100 the attack began. Company A, their communications shot out, jumped off on time, followed by Company C, with Company B guarding the left flank, toward the town of Casacce on the slope of the western ridge of Monticelli. From its defiladed route in the valley at the base of Monticelli, Company A found it impossible to see the white phosphorus markers on the crest of the ridge which was hidden from them by the convex slope. Lacking this guidance the company lost direction in the dark and its formation became broken. Suffering casualties from the efficient mortar and artillery defensive fires placed on the avenues of approach, having lost its path, and having heard no word from Company C which was to follow the end of the column, Company A was drawn back to protective ground to reorganize and reestablish contact. Here Lieutenant Regner, commanding, learned that Company C had also been hit by the defensive fires and held up. Hence it had never overtaken Company A.

While this was going on the 3d Battalion in their part of the coordinated



The tiny village of l'Uomo Morto, where Company I jumped off for Monticelli. This was open to direct fire from the peak.

attack had moved around Poggio di Castro to the west, and with Company K remaining at l'Uomo Morto as a final assault force, Company I proceeded to storm the crest of Monticelli from the south while Company L concurrently attacked Mt. Altuzzo on the eastern side of the highway.

After contacting Company K at l'Uomo Morto, Company I guided on a deep gully running up the slope on their left. By 0430 hours, 13 September, they were within 300 yards of Monticelli's crest only to run into belts of barbed wire and the enemy final protective line. Caught in the accurate machine-gun crossfire from previously undetected bunkers and pillboxes in addition to mortar barrages falling in the dead space which couldn't be reached by machine-gun fire, the company was forced back to the base of the ridge with 23 casualties, among them the company commander, Captain Kriel.

Reorganizing at l'Uomo Morto with Company K, the two companies set up an all-around defense made necessary by their advanced exposed position. The well defended height of Monticelli looked right down their throats, and little, already shattered l'Uomo Morto became a very hot spot indeed.

Meanwhile, Company L with a platoon of Company M machine guns attached had attacked from Ponzalla forward to take Mt. Altuzzo during darkness. Crossing the highway from Ponzalla the company proceeded through the blackness along the tributary Bognone stream bed then north to strike the trail leading up the slope of the mountain which was shaped very much like an easy chair—two ridges forming the arm rests, a draw forming the seat. As the company drew close to the foot of Altuzzo also it was impossible for them to see the white phosphorus markers placed on the crest, and Captain Draney had difficulty finding the correct route.

After finally locating the path, Company L continued the assault and had almost reached the crest of Altuzzo under the enemy defensive fire when the Germans laid down their final protective line of heavy rifle, machine-gun, mortar,

and artillery concentrations. The company took up the fight and by daylight had found some cover at an escarpment in their path, which partially protected them. Here Captain Draney was hit and had to be evacuated. Casualties were beginning to mount now that the enemy could see where the attackers were located.

At 0920 the morning of 13 September Lieutenant Tisdale, who had assumed command, radioed battalion: "Friendly artillery barrages falling on hill—casualties—under hostile mortar and artillery fire—request permission to remove company from hill—am only officer present."

Company L withdrew under orders to a small hill just south of Altuzzo, set up their machine guns and gave their objective a thorough going over.

While these attacks against Monticelli and Altuzzo had been going on another field order was published by Division, coming to Regiment late the night of 12 September. This order, No. 16, cut the 363d Infantry sector in half, changing the east border to approximately Highway 6524, and advising Regiment that elements of the 85th Division were being committed on the right and would pass through Company L on Mt. Altuzzo. In fact the 85th Division sector and the area in which Company L had been attacking were the same. Now Altuzzo was the objective of the 85th Division and the 363d Infantry could concentrate on Monticelli.

Company L again assaulted Altuzzo during daylight but was again forced back by the final protective lines laid down by the Germans; they returned to their gun positions and there waited for elements of the 85th Division to pass through.

Continuing pressure on the enemy defenses, Lieutenant Colonel Woods reorganized the 1st Battalion after the night attack and selected new routes to attack the western ridge and the town of Casacce again at 0800, 13 September.

Sending his S-3, Captain Nicholas T. Barry, now returned to duty after being wounded in July, with Company A on the left, Lieutenant Colonel Woods led Company C east, then cut north up the trail along the western slope of Poggio al Pozzo, the companion ridge to Poggio di Castro which the 3d Battalion had taken. Company B was again to protect the still exposed left flank and attack toward Colle on Monticelli's slope.

Channelized by a steep bank dropping off into a ravine on the right and sharp gullies on the left, Company A found the valley at the foot of Monticelli difficult to negotiate. The company was spotted by the enemy just as they moved into the narrowest part and received a barrage of mortar fire which killed 5 men and wounded 17 more. The column dispersed to take cover in the gully, became disorganized and was again withdrawn for regrouping. Company B, on the left, had advanced 700 yards to the town of Colle, and Company C to Poggio al Pozzo, starting up Monticelli itself, when Colonel Magill sent word to Lieutenant Colonel Woods that the 361st Infantry, in reserve until now, was to be committed to the left of the 363d Infantry, and that the 2d Battalion of the 361st Infantry was to move into position just west of Monticelli with orders to attack to the northeast with the objective of cutting off the enemy to the immediate north of positions faced by the 1st Battalion, 363d Infantry.

"Coordinate your movements with the action of that battalion," continued Colonel Magill, "and prepare to continue the attack."

Division Field Order No. 17, (131500B September 1944) which committed the 361st Infantry, stated that that regiment would pass through the forward

elements of the 363d Infantry. The order further stated that the 363d Infantry would secure Monticelli and when passed through by the 361st Infantry would revert to Division reserve, assisting the attack of the 361st Infantry by fire from the present positions. Through clarification of the order it was decided that the mission of taking Monticelli was to take priority and the Regiment would be relieved and placed in Division reserve upon the completion of the mission. Furthermore, it was agreed by all commanders that a passage of lines would be costly and a tremendous feat in the light of the heavily defended line and the exposed advance positions now held under observation of the enemy.

Meanwhile the reserve 2d Battalion, which had joined Company F in Scarperia, moved up near Ponzalla before daybreak of 13 September prepared to attack on the right of the 1st Battalion the morning of 14 September.

Again at 1030, 13 September, Colonel Magill called Lieutenant Colonel Woods: "The 2d Battalion will go in on the left of the 3d Battalion as soon as they can get ready—probably about 1400. The 338th Infantry [85th Division] is coming up behind our 3d Battalion which will go into Regimental reserve."

The commitment plan of the 85th Division called for the 338th Infantry to pass through the 3d Battalion, 363d Infantry, and attack in the zone east of Highway 6524 to capture Mt. Altuzzo, Il Giogo Pass, and farther north the city of Firenzuola on the Santurno River.

After a bombing of Monticelli by the Air Corps, out again in strength, the 2d Battalion attack began. At 1115 Company F left Ponzalla in column for Casacce by way of the ridge Poggio al Pozzo, using the path on its western side leading by the settlements of Cerliano and Vitartali—the same path which was used in the Company C advance. At 1800 Company E followed. Companies G and H remained in Ponzalla, the latter supporting the attack from positions in and around the town.

Here on the trail Captain Crowden, leading Company F, met the halted Company C at 1700, found Captain Hayes in command and made arrangements to pass through. Company F met no resistance as they moved on up the ridge which the enemy had prepared for defense but had not occupied because of the pressure exerted on the left and right by the attacks of the 1st and 3d Battalions, respectively. It was getting dark as the leading 3d Platoon, commanded by Lieutenant Robert C. Hatcher, reached the first break in the brush-lined path; here the platoon found what had been a bridge across a ravine. It was now just a pile of rubble lying in the bottom of the ravine. Lieutenant Hatcher led his platoon across safely with the exception of a Medical Corps man who was at the rear of the group and stepped on a *Schü* mine. The platoon and the rest of the company halted on the southern side of the ravine hit the dirt upon hearing the explosion as the now alerted Germans opened fire from their defensive positions strung around Monticelli.

Under the machine-gun fire another aid man from the 2d Platoon ran to rescue his wounded comrade and stepped on a mine himself. Two other 2d Platoon men went to evacuate the aid men and also stepped on mines. There were now four men in the minefield. Staff Sergeant Ernest L. Johnson, Private First Class Boyd Rittenberry, and Corporal Willard R. LaMarche from the 2d, 1st, and Weapons Platoons respectively, volunteered to go into the minefield and rescued two of the men. Joined by Private First Class Michael O'Niell, they returned to evacuate the other two when both Rittenberry and LaMarche

stepped on mines. They brought LaMarche out, but permission was refused for them to go back into the minefield after the others. Instead, the Ammunition and Pioneer Platoon was called forward and brought mine detectors to clear a path through which evacuation could be made without further casualties. Helping to clear and mark the minefield, Sergeant Wilbert I. Merx of the A&P Platoon also stepped on a mine and was blown into the ravine.

Upon the removal of the last of the wounded from the minefield, which was still under fire, the 2d Platoon, commanded by First Sergeant Russell M. McKelvey, was ordered by Captain Crowden to move 100 yards down the ravine to make a crossing there. This was successful, and McKelvey's platoon halted on the far side to contact Lieutenant Hatcher's platoon already across, and to reorganize. The rest of the night was spent in clearing the minefield and marking it with engineer tape to prevent further casualties. The remainder of Company F crossed the ravine early the next morning and prepared to continue the attack up Monticelli.

While the minefield episode was in progress the 2d Battalion command post moved up to the community of Cerliano, while Company E, which had followed Company F up the trail, moved into the village of Casacce already occupied by Company C. Company G followed closely behind Company E and outposted part of the slope of Monticelli above Casacce.

With the continuance of the Company F attack, the 1st Battalion's Company B swung from Colle towards the farmhouse Borgo on the western slope of Monticelli to the left of Company F. Company C drove north from Casacce while Company A was held in reserve. Although this attack was conducted at the same time Company F attacked with the purpose of diverting the enemy from the Company F attack and to capture the western slope of Monticelli, the two were independent actions.

Company B, following a rolling artillery barrage, was progressing rapidly towards Borgo at 1330 when the Germans put one of their English-speaking radio operators on the American frequency to complain that "artillery was falling on the Company C troops." The ruse succeeded. The artillery barrage ceased as Company B found its advance elements approaching two mutually supporting enemy machine-gun positions. By dark the company had advanced above Borgo halfway up the slope where they held up and arranged for food and ammunition resupply. Company A moved forward from their reserve position to Borgo. Two rifle platoons from Company A and a platoon of Company D heavy machine guns under Lieutenant Willard B. Drechsler were attached to Company B, and the heavy machine guns 2d Platoon of Company D, under Lieutenant Carroll M. Plumb, were attached to Company C in preparation for pushing up the remainder of the slope to the top of the ridge.

After completing the crossing of the minefield that morning Company F had attacked up the slope with Lieutenant Hatcher's 3d Platoon on the right, First Sergeant McKelvey's 2d Platoon on the left, meeting heavy resistance in the form of an estimated eight enemy pillboxes across their front. Machine-gun fire from these emplacements caused serious casualties, especially in the right platoon which was cut down to nine men and a sergeant. Lieutenant Hatcher was one of those who lost his life.

Captain Crowden committed his reserve 1st Platoon on the right to relieve the handful of the 3d Platoon which was then withdrawn 100 yards to the rear of the 1st and 2d Platoons. The company mortars had been emplaced and



Infantryman pause outside after clearing a German dugout in the Gothic Line.

the two light machine guns attached to the 2d Platoon, now the company got down to the dirty business of systematically knocking out the emplacements which faced them, while Company B on the left was preparing to push up the slope.

Company B, however, delayed their further attack when Colonel Magill sent word to Lieutenant Colonel Woods at 2230, 14 September, to select defensive positions in the present locality and dig in for the night. After resupplying the company was to be ready to jump off again at 0600 the next morning, 15 September. Company G, meanwhile, had moved up from Casacce between the two companies and was now in physical contact with Company F.

Patrolling to the front in an effort to locate the enemy positions which were placing fire on the company, six volunteers under Lieutenant John G. Kearton crept 100 yards up the slope where they were stopped by barbed-wire entanglements and cover was no longer available. Ordering his men to remain where they were and to cover his advance, Lieutenant Kearton wormed forward alone through the wire, 25 yards in the dark, and found himself at the base of a large log-and-dirt entrance to a pillbox.

All the German occupants weren't asleep, however. They soon detected Lieutenant Kearton and started lobbing grenades in his direction. The lieutenant escaped under cover of the darkness but got caught in the barbed wire. Finally, freeing himself he gathered his patrol together, returned to the company without casualties and gave his report of the location of the emplacement and protecting wire to Captain Inman.

Company B's attack the next morning at 0600 was led by Lieutenant Bruno

R. Rosellini's 2d Platoon on the left and Technical Sergeant Charles J. Murphy's 1st Platoon on the right. Captain Inman had called for a precision adjustment on the emplacement by supporting 155mm guns. Under the fire direction of Captain Thomas Alexander, artillery liaison officer with the 1st Battalion, a direct hit was scored and Lieutenant Rosellini with ten men rushed in forcing the remaining five living Germans inside to surrender.

With this obstacle out of the way, Company B was still faced with enemy fire from their right and left flanks and front. Above the wire and pillbox a steep shallow sandy draw led up the mountainside about 200 yards to an embankment. One hundred yards above this embankment was the crest of the western ridge of Monticelli on which the main enemy positions were situated. From their log-and-grass camouflaged dugouts and gun positions here the Germans commanded grazing fire down past the embankment, sweeping the barren draw. Company B suffered heavily from this as they continued doggedly up taking advantage of every fold and wrinkle in the ground.

Sergeant Roger W. Blunt in the weapons platoon moved his machine gun across the open draw toward the left flank to a position from which he could return flanking fire on one emplacement. From this gun position Blunt's fire was so effective that the enemy there was forced to take cover and cease his own firing. Almost immediately another pillbox on the right flank opened up on the advancing platoons, threatening to hold up the attack. Turning his gun on this new target, Sergeant Blunt delivered such a volume of fire on this emplacement that it was silenced. Alternating between the two enemy positions he kept them both buttoned up for forty minutes while the riflemen moved in for the capture, suffering only one casualty as they completed knocking out the pillboxes. Sergeant Orval Van Oss, one of the squad leaders, had been hit by one of the machine-gun bullets in the right thigh, but insisted on remaining and directing the action of his squad before being evacuated.

The Company B mortars supported this attack by placing fire on the known enemy positions which were too close to the advancing elements for artillery or the Company D mortars. Private First Class Ralph J. Metheney, a 60mm mortar squad leader, brought his mortar into action in spite of the fact that he had neither baseplate or sight by holding the tube between his knees. Then, when all the ammunition was gone, he gathered his squad and led it into the assault as riflemen.

By 1500 the remnants of the company reached the comparative safety of the embankment; 17 men were left of the two Company A platoons; 80 remained of the entire Company B. Lieutenant Colonel Woods had been watching the assault and, realizing that the pitifully small handful of men in their precarious position couldn't hold out long against the inevitable German counterattacks in strength, ordered Company C to prepare to move up and join Company B.

Meanwhile the men of the 1st Platoon, Company B, led by Technical Sergeant Murphy, and the 17 from Company A, under Lieutenant Ross A. Notaro, fixed bayonets and assaulted the crest of the ridge to the left or north of the embankment where the rest of Company B was, pushing the enemy back, forcing him to give up his commanding site, his dugouts, and his observation.

Suddenly the enemy was spotted in the draws behind Monticelli forming for a counterattack. Captain Inman grabbed the radio and called for artillery and mortar fire as Sergeant Murphy relayed firing data by hand-and-arm signals from his observation point on the high ground to the left flank. An alert sniper's

shot smashed the radio, but the fires were sufficiently registered in to break up the counterattack for the time being.

Shortly after, at 1630, the Germans came again, this time expressly at Sergeant Murphy's position to recapture their pillboxes and commanding terrain. Murphy changed his men to better firing positions, pointed out targets, directed the fire, and encouraged his men as the enemy advanced. Lieutenant Notaro was doing the same. All during this time artillery and mortars were heavily shelling the enemy. Cannon Company alone fired 700 rounds in the hour the attack lasted. Coupled with this support the two light machine guns, submachine guns and rifle fire of the defenders drove off the enemy after inflicting heavy casualties.

Again at 1800 the Germans launched a third counterattack, this time a flanking move which was also stopped before it gained momentum, principally through the well directed fire of Private First Class Richard A. Cioci, armed with a submachine gun, and Staff Sergeant Joseph D. Higdon, whose light machine gun was protecting that flank.

The next attack was in strength at 2000 and consisted of an assault on the left front of this position and a frontal attack on the Company B embankment position farther over to the right, preceded by an artillery and mortar preparation on the two companies which had had little time to dig in for protection because of the repeated counterattacks.

Captain Inman, in command of the under-strength Company B, called for artillery support as the enemy swept over the ridge and the men behind the embankment opened fire. Sergeant Earl R. Conn, machine-gun squad leader in the 1st Platoon of Company D which had displaced forward behind the embankment to support Company B, immediately took over the No. 1 gunner's job and began firing at two of the enemy pillboxes which had opened fire with the attack, and at a squad of advancing Germans. The mortar fire was falling on the Company B and machine-gun positions. Not having the best view of his field of fire, Sergeant Conn stood up and maintained a steady stream of fire at the advancing enemy; one mortar round exploded close to the gun, destroying the tripod. Conn took the heavy machine gun out of the tripod, placed it on the edge of the embankment, and continued firing. A second close one completed destruction of the gun, whereupon Conn grabbed a rifle and still kept firing. All along the rapid fire coming from the top of the embankment from Company B was taking a terrific toll of the onrushing enemy, some of whom were cut down right at the top of the bank but whose momentum carried them over into the company positions. American grenades and German potato mashers exploded on top of and behind the bank, and bayonets had been fixed for hand-to-hand encounters, but no live German got that far.

As the enemy charged on the left, Lieutenant Notaro raised up and threw a grenade, putting five of them out of the fight. Private First Class Cioci was spraying the attackers with his submachine gun, and Sergeant Higdon was laying down a deadly pattern with his light machine gun as was Private Miller J. Bryant. Sergeant Murphy, leader of the 1st Platoon of Company B, Sergeant John V. Cochran, and Lieutenant Notaro, platoon sergeant and leader, respectively, of the 3d Platoon, Company A, moved behind the firing line directing, encouraging, and pointing out threats to the rapidly firing riflemen, besides firing themselves.

Ignoring casualties, and they were suffering many of them, the Germans came on until they were within grenade-throwing distance. Sergeant Higdon, who



German prisoners captured during the battle of Monticelli.

was section leader for the Company A light machine guns, was hit. He stood up, picked up his machine gun, cradled it in his arms and charged into the Germans firing as he went. He was hit by another grenade fragment, staggered, but kept on while the enemy first scattered, then openly fled screaming for him to cease fire. Higdon completed the rout but not before he had been wounded a third time by small-arms fire. When the enemy fled Sergeant Higdon managed to make all but thirty yards back to his position, where he fell. When his comrades reached him a few seconds later he was dead.

The attack had been repulsed with serious losses to both sides. It was obvious to Sergeant Murphy that a few more counterattacks like the last one would wear away the rest of his men in their present exposed position. Therefore, as darkness closed in he made his way across to the embankment where he discussed the possibility of his group joining the remainder of the company there, and the plan was approved.

Reaching his platoon on the ridge the sergeant explained the plan of withdrawal and led his men back to the embankment, taking the wounded with him. Lieutenant Notaro remained there until the next morning, repulsing another counterattack, and at daylight, 16 September, came with his remaining nine men to join Company B at the embankment.

Meanwhile, from the time the first of the counterattacks had been repulsed at 1630 the afternoon before, Company C had advanced up the slope behind and to the right of Company B and after passing through a minefield and overcoming some enemy opposition bypassed by the leading company, found themselves on the slope in the last bit of concealment about 150 yards to the rear of

Company B and the embankment, where they dug in and set up their own and the attached machine guns of the 2d Platoon, Company D. At dusk too, Company G, then near the village of Casacce, had had been alerted to move up the ridge and fill in the unprotected area between Company B's right flank and Company F's left flank. Guides had been sent down from Company B to lead the reinforcements up and all night Company G, commanded by Captain Edward J. Conley, labored up the twisting paths, arrived just at dawn, and moved in behind the bank extending the Company B lines to the right. The company was attached to the 1st Battalion.

The left flank of Company B was now the most vulnerable spot of all and the enemy knew this as evidenced by his repeated attacks against it. Furthermore, during the night, beside the organized counterattacks, snipers and small groups of Germans had infiltrated around that flank, and with the coming of daylight the next morning, 16 September, proceeded to deliver fire into the rear of the embankment. They also moved back into the emplacements which Sergeant Murphy's platoon had taken and found untenable, while the platoon, now numbering 17 men, took up a position guarding this exposed flank. In an effort to strengthen the flank more, the mortar squad, which had fired all their ammunition and found more unobtainable, took up the fight as riflemen and was placed on the extreme left of the company.

Here the embankment, five feet high along the remainder of the company front, gradually diminished in height until it reached the shallow draw up which the company had attacked. This was at the foot of the crescent-shaped ridge from where the Company B platoon had withdrawn, a distance of 75-100 yards from the enemy emplacements. It was here that the mortarmen-turned-riflemen dug in, where the embankment was about a foot high and dwindled down to nothing.

Among these men was Private First Class Oscar G. Johnson, who was to be awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions. When the enemy resumed his counterattacks at dawn preceded by artillery and mortar preparations they continued pressure against the key left flank. As the platoons returned the fire, Johnson coolly stood in his slit trench to get a better field of fire and emptied his carbine into the advancing Germans, ignoring machine-gun fire which killed and wounded men all around him. His carbine now useless for lack of ammunition, Johnson ran to fallen men, grabbed the weapons they had dropped, and kept them hot until the attack was repulsed. During the interval between attacks he gathered weapons from those men who had been killed or seriously wounded and evacuated, going out into the shelling and small-arms fire with which the enemy kept chipping away at the top of the embankment even though none of his troops were attacking. Altogether Johnson accumulated four M1 rifles, a BAR, and a Thompson submachine gun, which he placed within easy reach of his trench. For the latter, Johnson crossed 30 yards of open terrain in plain view of the enemy emplacements. The severe fire and infiltration tactics kept up all day, the grazing machine-gun fire from the crest forcing Company B to remain behind the bank, the snipers picking off men from the rear, and enemy mortar rounds falling throughout the entire area. Company B was now down to less than 80 men. Snipers accounted for four officers in three hours. Lieutenant Rosellini took command when Captain Inman was hit in the right shoulder and evacuated.

All during the day of 16 September repeated German counterattacks were

repulsed, the enemy several times getting in close enough to throw fragmentation hand grenades. Out on the flank Johnson, his weapons and ammunition arranged around him, was standing up, sweeping the Germans in an 180 degree arc. When the submachine gun ran out of ammunition, he grabbed the automatic rifle; when the magazines for that were empty he started firing the M1 rifles so fast that they sometimes failed to function properly. When that happened, he worked the operating rod by hand. Between attacks Johnson kept any more Germans from infiltrating around his end by either killing or wounding each one who tried it or making it so hot that none dared try it. He also found time to gather more ammunition and tear down his rifles in an attempt to cannibalize them into one properly functioning weapon. By now Johnson was the only remaining member of the original group which had been put in position to guard the left flank. All others had been killed or wounded. Twice reinforcements ill spared from the rest of the diminishing company were sent to help him, but most of the casualties occurred on the left flank in the vicinity of Johnson's position.

The aid men who went out into the fire to bandage and give morphine to these casualties certainly deserve the highest praise. Among them were Technician Fifth Grade James L. Christopher, Private First Class William J. Enck, and Private Joseph Pirog. Besides treating the wounded under fire, these men went through minefields to bring up their own much needed medical supplies and litter bearers, then helped with the evacuation. Four of the patients on whom Christopher was working were wounded a second time while he worked on them. Other men like Private First Class Daniel J. McCarthy, although not aid men, moved through machine-gun fire to aid wounded comrades. McCarthy was severely wounded in the legs himself but dressed the others' wounds and remained with them until they could be evacuated. The aid men had much more work than they could handle, and when a rifleman could assist without neglecting his normal duties it was a great help.

Meanwhile on the morning of 16 September General Livesay called Colonel Magill, saying that it would be necessary for him to recommit the 3d Battalion on the right of the regimental sector to aid in the advance of the 338th Infantry, which had taken over the area to the east of highway 6524, and advanced their left elements up to the constantly shelled village of l' Uomo Morto where the 3d Battalion, 363d Infantry, was in reserve. By 0835 the 3d Battalion had a warning order. While Lieutenant Colonel Long went to Regimental headquarters to get details, Captain Robert F. Muller, battalion S-3, assembled the company commanders: Lieutenant Joseph C. Wessendorff, who had assumed command of Company I when Captain Kriel was hit; Captain William B. Fulton, former battalion S-1 who was put in command of Company K when Captain Stewart was wounded; Lieutenant Stephen P. Eyherabide, who took over command of Company L when Captain Draney was wounded; and Captain Gordon H. Stevens, Company M commander. Returning to the OP, where he met his company commanders, Lieutenant Colonel Long issued an oral order directing Company L to move up the left of two draws leading to the crest of Monticelli while Company K advanced up the right draw. Both companies had the crest of Monticelli as their objective. The eight heavy machine guns would support in battery, as would the 81mm mortars.

Immediately upon moving forward, both Company L on the left and Company K on the right received heavy fire from the left front, the same fire which

was holding up the attack of Company F. Neither company could advance more than 300 yards from the line of departure during daylight, and the attack was held up until nightfall.

Company F was still attempting to reduce the enemy positions which faced it. From the location behind Companies B and C, Company C could deliver fire on a good number of these emplacements and aid the Company F attack. Lieutenant Carroll M. Plumb and Staff Sergeant Donald B. Wilson, platoon leader and sergeant of the 2d Platoon of Company D, attached to Company C, and Lieutenant William H. Hopkins, Company C, spotted Germans in three emplacements over to their right behind Company G's positions. Training a machine gun on each embrasure they sent in a burst of fire whenever any movement was discerned. It was not until early afternoon, 16 September, that a white handkerchief was cautiously eased out of one of the openings and the cease-fire order was given. Thus encouraged, a German stuck his head out, a white cloth in his hand, and received instructions from the men behind the machine guns to advance toward them. He stepped out with his hands up, walking entirely around the pillbox to avoid mines there, and was followed by 24 others. A short time later 17 more surrendered from a second emplacement.

Company C and Company G cleaned out several additional enemy positions on 16 September, and as experience had shown that the Germans would re-occupy them if the Americans didn't, arrangements were made to have Company E, now commanded by Lieutenant Thomas B. Keys, move up from the village of Casacce and man all emplacements cleaned out that day. Attacking the third pillbox at 1300, 16 September, one from which the Germans wouldn't surrender, a platoon of Company C received machine-gun fire from still another emplacement which heretofore had not been detected. In order to silence this emplacement and allow the riflemen to maneuver, Staff Sergeant Horace B. Jenkins had to move one of his Company D machine guns farther up the slope to an open area. Jenkins, the machine-gun squad leader, placed the gun in position and rather than expose any of his squad did the firing himself, silencing the pillbox. However, enemy fire was causing so many casualties that the supporting riflemen were forced to withdraw to a defiladed position, during which time Jenkins stood his ground although slightly wounded, and fired twelve boxes of ammunition in covering them.

On the southeastern slope the 3d Battalion companies which had held up their attack on the crest of Monticelli waiting for darkness again jumped off at 1900 the evening of 16 September. Company L on the left climbed upward 500 yards until they ran into small-arms fire coming from the left front where Company F was against the emplacements, and enemy artillery, in addition to an extension of the minefield which Company F had run into several days earlier. Here also, they found themselves faced with four-strand barbed-wire defenses. Lieutenant Eyherabide went forward to make a path through the wire and in the process detonated a mine which blew off his left foot. The company aid men immediately treated him although he refused to be evacuated. The mine which had wounded the company commander had also blown a gap in the wire and Eyherabide lay on a stretcher directing his company's advance through the wire and the minefield. However, before the company could advance entirely past the obstacles, the enemy alerted and brought down the final protective fires. The company was unable to make any further advances.

Meanwhile Company K on the right also had gotten up to the wire in their

sector and was preparing to blow a way through it with bangalore torpedoes when the final protective fires hit with such force that reorganization was necessary. Both Company L and Company K withdrew to the base of the ridge. Casualties from the enemy mortars, artillery, machine guns and mines amounted to 3 dead, 20 wounded.

The following morning, September 16, after getting his Company G located in position on the ridge, Captain Conley, with a messenger, made his way down the ridge to report to Lieutenant Colonel Murphy, whose forward CP was set up in a stable in Casacce. Slipping and sliding down the slope, Conley noticed a camouflaged enemy observer and took a snap shot at him with his carbine. The German dodged into a nearby emplacement which opened fire on Conley and the messenger as they hit the ground. A second pillbox opened up and bullets kicked up dirt all around the two. Sending the messenger for hand grenades, Conley returned fire at the emplacements, and waited.

When the messenger returned he not only had the grenades but also reinforcements. Captain Conley and his men closed in on the emplacement and out of it took 26 prisoners.

By dawn, 17 September, Company E had completed the climb to the immediate rear of the Company G positions and Sergeant Beryl H. Baker was ordered to take his squad and occupy the emplacements which had been cleared out the previous day. Baker hadn't gone far when he saw a German poke his head out of one of the emplacements which he was supposed to occupy. Looking over to the right he could see some of the Company F men trying to knock out more of the emplacements facing them. The Germans had infiltrated back into the pillboxes during the night. Baker started by directing the fire of his men in support of the Company F squad until they got in close enough to throw grenades and rush the pillbox, then started to work in his own territory.

Before the day was over he and his men had cleared a half dozen pillboxes, marked a minefield, and captured 20 prisoners. In one emplacement alone where Baker had thrown a grenade were found eight dead Germans.

To the right at Company F, with his platoon sergeant a casualty, Sergeant McKelvey began inching his platoon forward by fire and movement. One of his squad leaders went down and the assistant was killed almost immediately as he went to take command. Sergeant McKelvey wormed over to the squad, reorganizing it.

"We just couldn't move," explained Private Glen H. Wells, "because we were getting so much fire from the pillboxes. Sergeant McKelvey told us to hold up and he began moving forward himself—the tracers were cutting right over him. Then he had to crawl through the wire." One bullet tore two holes in McKelvey's helmet as he worked his way through the barbed wire and disarmed an S mine while the squad kept trying to button up the enemy emplacement.

"Private James R. Wixon was firing at the machine gun but he was killed," continued Private First Class Theodore J. Drozdowski. "Sergeant McKelvey kept moving and when he got close enough he threw a Molotov cocktail, then ran and jumped into the pillbox. I heard him hollering at the Germans and the next thing I knew five Jerries came running out of the hole with Sergeant McKelvey behind them. He sent them back and we never had any more trouble from the pillbox after that."

Sergeant McKelvey was later commissioned a second lieutenant. Lieutenant

General Lucian K. Truscott, who assumed command of the Fifth Army from General Clark, presented McKelvey with the Distinguished Service Cross for this action.

At dawn too, Company B looked over their embankment to see several Germans come out of the emplacements on the crest of the ridge carrying a white flag. A cease-fire order was given to see what the flag meant. The Germans kept on coming down the slope to the embankment as if to surrender; they were met by Lieutenant Rosellini. The ranking officer was a captain who requested a truce until 1100 for the mutual purpose of evacuating the many wounded of each side. Rosellini immediately got in touch with higher headquarters and it was some time before the word was received back on the radio that the truce would not be permitted. Back in the German emplacements a group of 24 enemy soldiers who were not advised of the proposed truce saw their commander walking toward the American lines and assuming that he was going to surrender, raised their hands and came down the slope on the left where Johnson was outposting the flank. Technician Fifth Grade Christopher, being a medic and theoretically protected by the Geneva Convention, went forward and with Johnson covering them with his rifle, the two men took the Germans prisoner.

The situation on Monticelli was rapidly building up to a climax. Enemy information assembled from observation, prisoner interrogations, and intercepted radio messages indicated that the German losses had been extremely heavy and that reinforcements were being brought into the line from Bologna, Firenzuola, and from adjacent sectors to reinforce the 12th Regiment, 4th German Paratroop Division, which was generally facing the 363d Infantry.

In preparation for more counterattacks the enemy had moved the remaining 45 men from the 10th Company, 10th Regiment, from Futa Pass into the 12th Regiment's area on Monticelli at the same time that the 1st Company, 11th Reconnaissance Battalion, had joined from Bologna, 16 September. Further arrangements were made to reinforce the 2d Battalion of the 12th Regiment by moving the 3d Battalion in with them and replacing the 3d Battalion with a unit of the Lehr Brigade which was to move up for the purpose, but had not yet arrived in the late afternoon of 17 September.

The 3d Battalion, 363d Infantry, meanwhile was planning another assault on the peak of Monticelli for 1400, 17 September, using the same strategy as before with the addition of some engineers from Company C, 316th Engineer Battalion, who would accompany Company L to clear the minefields. At noon Company L was reorganizing in a draw to the northwest of the town of Collini on Highway 6524, the 3d Battalion observation post; Company K was to their right 300 yards north of Collini; and Company I was still at the exposed *I' Uomo Morto* with elements of the 338th Infantry.

General Livesay visited the 3d Battalion command post at Collini at 1230 and issued the following order: "The 3d Battalion," he said, "will follow a rolling barrage up Monticelli at 1400. This will be furnished by the Division Artillery—Corps will be requested to thicken the barrage by firing on targets in the rear areas. Take the ridge at all cost. Go up, and don't stop until you get to the crest."

"I'll get them up there, General," replied Lieutenant Colonel Long, "but I don't expect to have many men left."

Company M, which had fired 130,000 rounds of machine-gun ammunition

and 3700 rounds of 81mm mortar ammunition on Monticelli supporting the attacks the day before, was ordered to continue support from positions at Collini, their fire to be raised only on order. Company H would do the same from Ponzalla, while the 2d Battalion would assault the crest of the western ridge coordinated with the 3d Battalion's push to the peak on the right. Lieutenant Colonel Long met Captain Fulton commanding Company K and gave him the order at 1330; Company L on the left, Company K on the right, Company I initially in reserve to follow to the right rear of Company K.

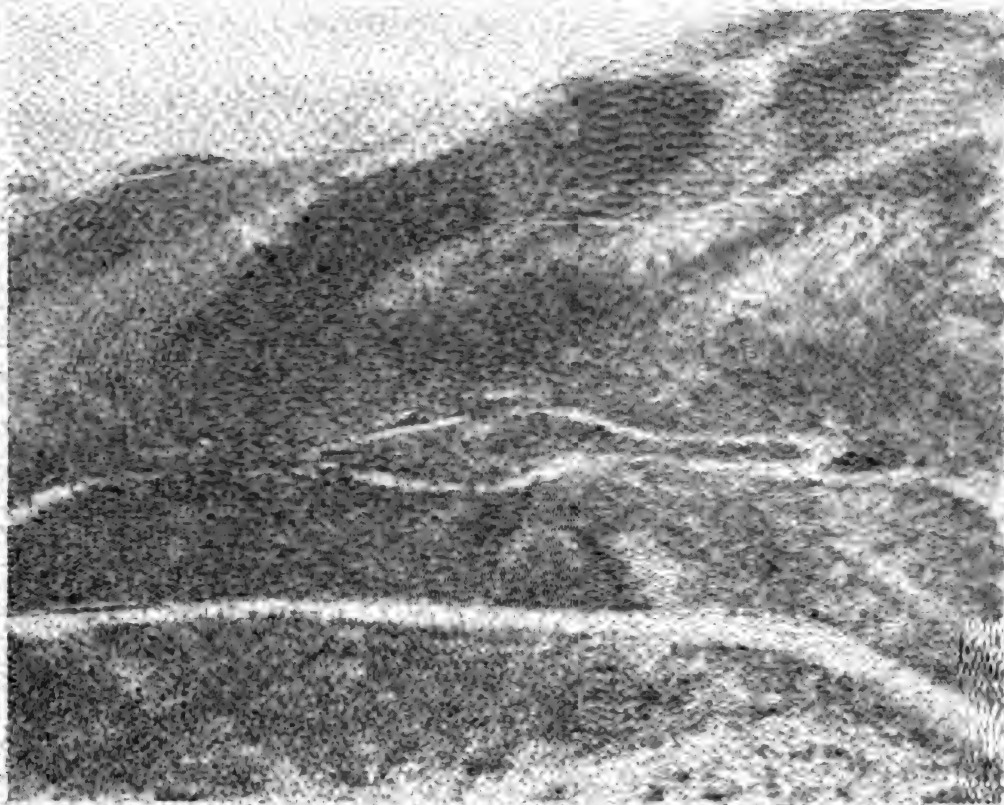
"I want you to go with the lead platoon of your company," Lieutenant Colonel Long told Captain Fulton, "and don't stop until you hit the top of the ridge." Moving out with Company K, Lieutenant Colonel Long met Company I advancing 400 yards up the draw from l' Uomo Morto. By the time Lieutenant Wessendorff had been given details of the order Company K was 300 yards up the draw, part of them held up by enemy small-arms fire but most of them still following the rolling artillery barrage up the slope at 50 yards. Meanwhile Captain Muller, 3d Battalion S-3, had gone in pursuit of Company K to give them the additional information. He caught them part way up Monticelli and panting up the length of the column found Lieutenant Thomas W. Raine, who had taken command when Lieutenant Eyherabide was wounded the day before. "Raine," he said, "you're to keep going at all cost and stop only when you get to the top of Monticelli."

Just then the leading platoon was held up by a group of enemy armed with automatic weapons. The opposition was soon eliminated and the company advanced slowly under increasing artillery, mortar, and self-propelled-gun fire which wounded 3 men and killed Lieutenant Robert W. Anderson who had taken over command of the 1st Platoon after joining the company only three hours earlier. At one point where four rounds landed in the midst of the platoon Lieutenant Raine moved around talking to the men, pulling them together, and reorganizing. Moving forward slowly they gained another 300 yards when the self-propelled gun opened up on them again, but when it ceased fire Company L was still advancing slowly up Monticelli.

Company I following to the right of Company K was suddenly hit by machine-gun and small-arms fire from their flank, positions which had been by-passed by the swiftly moving Company K. Leaving two platoons where they were, Lieutenant Wessendorff took the 1st Platoon around in a flanking maneuver to the right, assaulted and neutralized an enemy emplacement from which most of the fire had been coming, killing at least six Germans. Concentrations of artillery, mortar, and machine-gun fire threatened to halt their progress but one at a time the platoons worked their way through the beaten zone.

After Lieutenant Anderson was killed, the 1st Platoon of Company L under Sergeant William C. Ray moved over to the east and went down into the draw up which Company K was advancing. As they reached it the tail of Company K was just passing with Lieutenant Colonel Long and his OP group approaching. The platoon attached themselves to the end of Company K, while the rest of Company L continued the attack up their original draw.

By this time the attack on both Futa Pass and Il Giogo Pass had become all-out. The 362d Infantry was pushing at Futa; the 361st Infantry which had been committed between the 362d Infantry and the 363d Infantry was moving forward on Vallappero Ridge to the west of Monticelli; the 338th Infantry to the east had reported their 3d Battalion with elements on Mt. Altuzzo across



A view of Il Giogo Pass and Highway 6524. The mountain (upper right) is a small portion of Monticelli in the 3d Battalion zone.

Highway 6524 from Monticelli. In the 363d Infantry sector Companies E and G jumped off at 1530 by order of General Livesay, coordinating with the 3d Battalion on their right to capture the portion of Monticelli ridge in their area. The leading companies were within 300 yards of the crest when the draw up which Company K was attacking forked; as they started up the east branch they were hit by a prepared concentration of mortar fire and in addition were under direct fire from the German observation post located in emplacements on the peak. Captain Fulton and ten men—Privates First Class Jesse Taylor and Jonas C. Brooks, Sergeants Raymond C. Crawford and Theodore R. Thompson, Private Charles H. Harze, Private First Class Earl T. Nelson and Privates Francis Hockreiter, Clayton J. Quale, Houston O. Myers, and Daniel D. Saylor—found themselves on a bare exposed stretch leading directly to the top.

Through the barrage they dashed dropping each time a close one whined in. Somehow the eleven made it, rushed the observation post and threw themselves in the emplacements which the Germans had just abandoned. Taylor set his automatic rifle up on one flank. Brooks took a position on the other with the rifleman in between. Thompson carrying his radio and Harze, his assistant radio man, joined Fulton in the OP trench. Thompson got battalion on the radio. "I, Captain William B. Fulton, am on top of Monticelli. I've got ten men with me, we're played out and I'll be goddamned if I know what to do next!" It was then 1448, 17 September.

At battalion Major Jacob B. Beal, the executive officer, was on the radio. He put through a rush call to the supporting artillery, Cannon Company, and the

Company M mortars, held the line open and told Fulton to get busy directing fire on the retreating enemy in the valley beyond.

Lieutenant Colonel Long with his OP group at the tail of the remainder of Company K heard the message, and then another from Fulton to him requesting that he get reinforcements as quick as possible, that the Germans were forming for a counterattack behind Monticelli. Moving forward rapidly Lieutenant Colonel Long gathered up a group of men, among them Sergeant Ray's platoon of Company L, and as he reached a point about 50 yards below Fulton's position looked around to see that 12 of the men had become casualties from machine-gun fire. By coincidence, a short smoke round by which the Company M mortars were being zeroed in landed ahead of the group, allowing them to reach the top of the ridge without German observation.

Fulton at this time was directing the fire in the valley behind Monticelli: "One round hit pretty close, give it another fifty yards. . . . that's right in the middle of 'em . . . swell . . . fire for effect . . ." Lieutenant Colonel Long began organizing the defenses with the 30 men he had brought up. Captain George D. Bunnell, artillery liaison officer from the 347th Field Artillery Battalion who had been with Lieutenant Colonel Long when he received Fulton's radio message, arrived a few minutes later bringing with him 15 more men that he had assembled, then went back after his radio and joined Fulton in the fire direction.

Lieutenant Wessendorff, at the head of Company I, had also heard the radio messages. At the time the company was encountering machine-gun and artillery barrages which threatened to delay it if Lieutenant Wessendorff had not personally led each platoon through the fire-swept area individually. Encountering elements of Companies K and L he rallied them and added them to his forces, guiding six platoons to the top of Monticelli at dusk just as the rest of Company L pushed its way up on the left.

Consolidating positions, Company L occupied from the peak west 200 yards, Company K put two platoons on the peak and two behind the ridge, while Company I outposted from the peak east along the shoulder running towards the highway.

In the diversion attack of the 2d Battalion in conjunction with the 3d Battalion's capture of the peak Company F was still faced with the network of fortifications which they had been reducing for the past several days. At 1530 Companies E and G riflemen got out of their foxholes and with bayonets fixed assaulted the crest of the ridge in their sector.

The Germans on the ridge could see them advancing up the open slope and opened up with their machine guns and mortars. The leading elements were cut to ribbons and others took their places but finally the few left were forced to pull back to the former positions. The valiant attack had cost Company E 7 killed, 27 wounded; Company G, 25 killed, 32 wounded. Captain Conley was the only officer left in Company G, and he had been hit in the arm. Company E had no officers. Lieutenant Rosellini had come over to the Company G area to talk to Conley before the attack jumped off about supporting it by fire from the 1st Battalion positions and on his way back was killed by a sniper when but 15 yards from his own foxhole. He was the last officer in Company B.

Conley made his way back to his radio and reported to Lieutenant Colonel Woods that the attack had failed. As he was talking a shell came in and knocked him unconscious. The radio operator finished the call, then noticed a 10- to 20-man German counterattack forming to the right front; he called for artillery



Supporting artillery did this to the thickly wooded areas in and around Il Giogo Pass.

on it, successfully breaking the attack up before it had gotten under way. When Conley regained consciousness a few minutes later he took command of Companies B, E and G, reorganized them into one unit and placed the men in the now empty foxholes.

First Sergeant George E. Reid of Company E tells of the afternoon of 17 September.

At 1300 we received the order that the all-out attack on Monticelli would be made at 1400. The attack jumped off at that time but when the men moved forward from their holes Jerry began to lay in a barrage of mortars, heavy artillery, machine-gun and sniper fire. Heavy casualties were inflicted. All the officers, all the platoon sergeants, two section sergeants, and five squad leaders were either killed or wounded. The company was completely disorganized and would have been ineffectual against a counterattack which I expected. I couldn't get battalion on the radio, so I went over to Company G and contacted Captain Conley whose company had also suffered heavy casualties. I explained the situation to him and although wounded in the arm he took over my company, reorganized, and moved my men into position to prevent a counterattack. He had also taken over Company B. From then on until we got officers Captain Conley moved among the three companies, arranged for the evacuation of the wounded, reorganized the positions, and encouraged the men. I don't see how he kept going, but he did.

The many wounded men lying on the slope could not be evacuated until after dark because there were no litter teams, they too had become casualties in attempting to remove the wounded. The remaining aid men, Technician Third Grade Joseph Pannella, the only medic left in Company E, Technician Third Grade Dennis M. Plummer, and Private First Class Dale M. McNabb both of Company G, with Staff Sergeant Ysbrand Sprick, Company E communications

sergeant, went forward with the attack and began to take care of the wounded immediately. McNabb was knocked down by bursting shells but kept on working until he was wounded so seriously he was unable to move; Plummer had shell fragments rip through his clothes and ricochet off his helmet but he was miraculously uninjured; Parinella had given first aid to nine seriously wounded men when, as he was going to the aid of the tenth, he was killed by fragments from a mortar shell; Sprik, the company communications sergeant, acted as platoon sergeant while the attack was going on, leading his men. When the attack and reorganization was over he went out to help the wounded. The actions of all these men were above and beyond the call of duty.

After dark on 17 September, while evacuation of the wounded was still progressing, Company F, 361st Infantry, which had been attacking in the sector to the west and north of the 363d Infantry, was attached to the 1st Battalion to protect the still exposed left flank of Company B, where casualties were still heavy and Private First Class Johnson was still holding for his third sleepless night. During the night the company, led by Captain Kenneth Hoffman, arrived in position on the left flank and at 0530 on the morning of 18 September assaulted the same pillboxes which Sergeant Murphy had previously attacked. They captured two prisoners and found that the other occupants had been withdrawn sometime during the early morning.

When word was received at Division headquarters that a small group of Company K men were on the top of Monticelli a message was immediately sent to the 338th Infantry on the right requesting that they push forward rapidly in their zone to divert any counterthreat which could drive the handful of men off or prevent their reinforcement.

Monticelli was taken: The Gothic Line was broken.

On the morning of 18 September the 363d Infantry remained dug in on Monticelli and continued the evacuation of their wounded. There was no enemy contact except for an enemy mortar barrage which fell on the Company E area but caused no casualties.

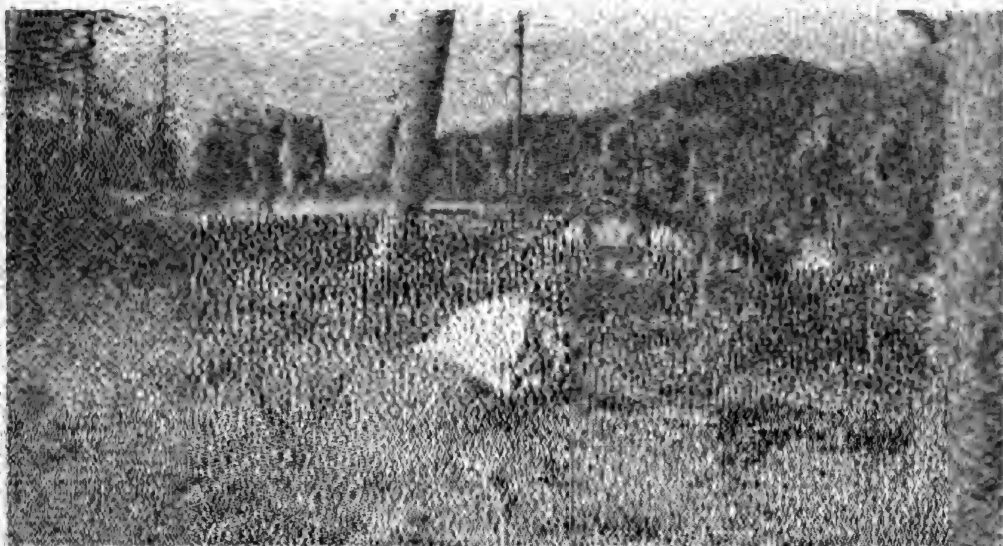
Meanwhile, Colonel Magill, after talking to General Livesay, planned to send a patrol forward to the next large terrain feature, Il Piaggione, followed by a company, with an attack on Poggio Roncolombello, the following feature, scheduled for the next day.

At 1230 a patrol from Company K headed for Il Piaggione and by 1255 reported in by Cannon Company radio that they had taken 16 prisoners. Companies K, I, and L moved off Monticelli down into the valley toward the patrol's objective while Company K, now consolidated with the patrol, moved up the slope of Il Piaggione where they spent the night after contacting Company G, 338th Infantry, 85th Division, immediately on their right.

The 2d Battalion moved across the draw on Monticelli and occupied the peak when the 3d Battalion moved off. The 1st Battalion remained in position on the left flank.

On the morning of 19 September at 0500 the 3d Battalion jumped off for the new Regimental objective, Poggio Roncolombello, as described in the 91st Division Field Order No. 18 issued the previous afternoon. This was a coordinated attack with all three regiments participating to pursue the enemy, exploit the breakthrough of the Line, and perhaps push the Germans back into the Po Valley. All arrangements were made with this in mind.

Following the ridge lines the battalion moved in a column of companies with



Men of the 363d Infantry pass a dead German as they advance beyond Monticelli after breaking through the Gothic Line

Company K in the lead. Light enemy harassing action was encountered. By 0730 the leading troops had advanced from Il Piaggione to Poggio Roncolombello and had patrols on the upper slopes of Monte Castel Guerrino, the 1117-meter peak which had been one of the principal enemy observation posts. Two groups of 16 and 21 Germans were surrounded and captured by Company K, while 11 other prisoners were sent to the rear by other companies. Moving over Monte Castel Guerrino, the battalion was given new objectives to the north. Late afternoon found the leading elements in a sharp fight with the hard-pressed enemy at Casanova, while the artillery observers, with the advantage of the commanding ground, were directing fire on enemy targets around Firenzuola. Foot troops, tanks and artillery were pouring through the Il Giogo Pass in an ever-increasing stream as the engineers repaired and rebuilt the roads demolished by the enemy and by our own artillery during the struggle for the gateway. Nightfall found the 3d Battalion deadlocked with the enemy at Casanova.

Meanwhile the 2d Battalion had moved to the town of Rifredo along the road to the right flank of the 3d Battalion to aid them in the attack if necessary. The reserve 1st Battalion moved off Monticelli into the Il Giogo Pass at Fonte Fredda where they went into an assembly area.

The next day the attack continued toward the last high ground on the south banks of the Santerno River. The Regimental objective was Poggio Pioto, to be occupied as soon as possible to prevent the enemy from evacuating troops across the river. The objective was designated by word of a message order sent by General Livesay to Colonel Magill. Pioto was a 1500-foot ridge pointing to the old town of Firenzuola across the river, parts of which still had a moat around them from the middle ages. Firenzuola was the objective of the 338th Infantry on the right of the 363d Infantry.

By 0930 the 3d Battalion was west of and in the town of Casanova on the San Piero-Scarperia-Firenzuola road, north of Rifredo but 3000 yards south of the river. Here they received enemy tank or self-propelled fire in addition to small-arms fire from their left flank which killed three Company L men. Company I was committed on the left of Company K on Poggio Muscato, the high

ground west of Casanova. Between them they reduced the German resistance in that area, outposted, and stayed there for the night while the 2d Battalion was engaged in reconnaissance preparatory to relieving them.

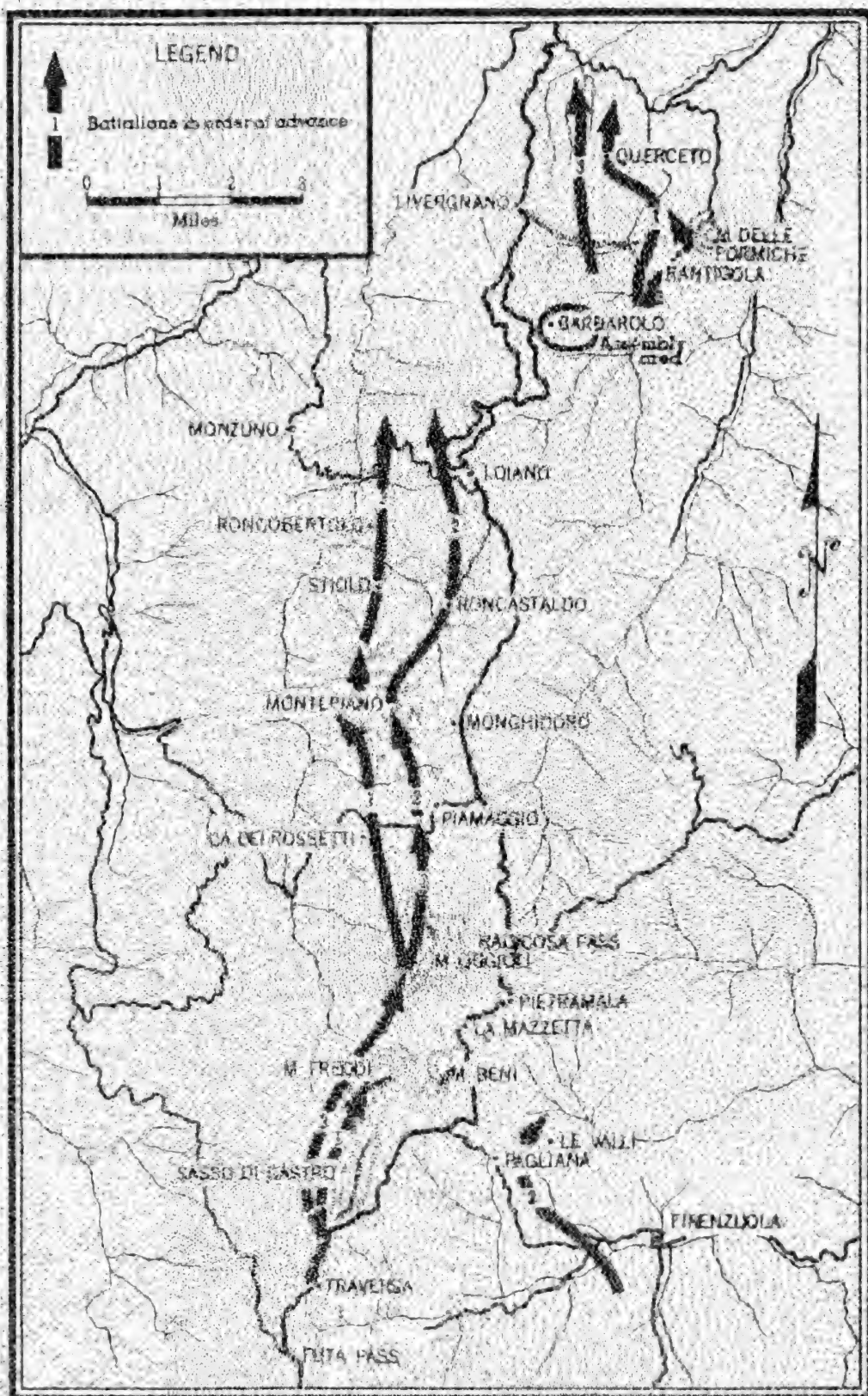
The relief was completed on the next morning, 21 September, the 1st and 3d Battalions assembling in Casanova, the 2d Battalion continuing the attack on Poggio Pioto in conjunction with the 338th Infantry's tank-infantry attack on Eirenzuola. By early afternoon Company E had one platoon on Piota with another on the way and by nightfall had moved up the entire company being joined the following day by Company G, disposed at the base of the ridge.

The advance was halted on 21 September and instructions were issued not to cross the Santurno. Patrols, however, had already been across and returned reporting no enemy contact. The 363d Infantry, less the 2d Battalion which was attached to the 361st Infantry and continued to outpost the river there, reverted to Division reserve.

On the morning of 22 September the Regiment, less the 2d Battalion, moved from Casanova by truck over the ground for which they had fought for two weeks to the estate at Villanova on the Sieve River and Highway 65 for a well-earned but abbreviated rest.

Reconnaissance began almost immediately for a forward assembly area for the Regiment in the vicinity of Futa Pass. Here the 363d Infantry was to move preparatory to relieving the 362d Infantry in their sector and continuing the push up Highway 65.





Up Highway 65 to the Winter Line.

CHAPTER 5

UP 65

WITH the enemy driven out of Futa Pass by the 362d Infantry's push from the south and the flanking breakthrough of the Gothic Line at Il Giogo Pass by the 363d Infantry, the Regiment less the 2d Battalion, moved from the rest area at Villanova by truck up Highway 65 into the vicinity of the pass. Original plans were to take the trucks right into the assembly area in the town of Passo della Futa itself but as the enemy still dropped an occasional round through the mists into the highway near the turnaround there, troops detrucked a mile south and marched up through the cold and fog to the assembly areas, arriving at 1800, 24 September.

The bad weather for which Futa Pass was noted became worse, the fog being joined by a tempest of wind and rain which rose to such ferocity that many trees weakened by shell fire were blown over, blocking the highway and causing some casualties. By the time platoons and companies began to form for the march to the 362d Infantry lines, there wasn't a dry soldier in the lot—every man, in spite of raincoat, helmet, and combat boots, was drenched to the skin. While moving out of the area the battalions were subjected to an enemy harassing artillery barrage which affected morale more than it injured personnel. The march column hit the ground until the barrage was over, rising cold, muddy, wet, miserable, cursing, and fighting mad.

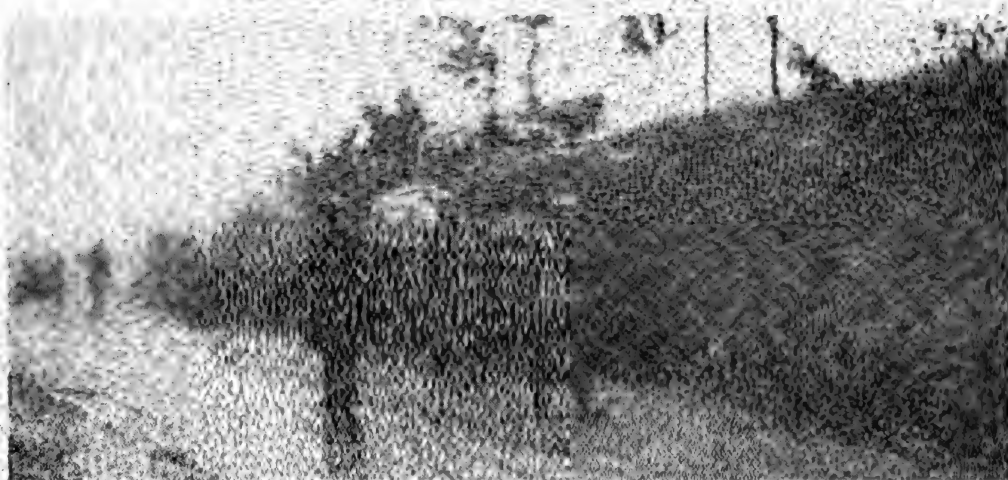
Scheduled to relieve elements of the 362d Infantry by 0630 the next morning, 25 September, the 363d Infantry was delayed by the fog, mist, and pitch darkness and accomplished the relief at 0800. After marching up Highway 65 for two miles to the town of Traversa, the 1st Battalion cut west of the road at the huge rock ridge called Sasso di Castro and continued north through the mud across country towards the first Regimental objective, Mt. Freddi. The 3d Battalion followed the 1st Battalion and prepared to pass through at 0600, 27 September, and push forward to Mt. Oggioli, 2000 yards northeast of Freddi, the second Regimental objective.

Company A, on the right of the 1st Battalion, investigated 1194-meter Mt. Rosso just north of Sasso di Castro, finding it cleared of enemy. From there a patrol was sent down into the settlement of Belvedere immediately to the northeast, which was found to be already cleared by elements of the 361st Infantry advancing astride the highway.

The 363d Infantry strategy for the fall of Freddi called for Company A to attack west and take Hill 1108, Hill 1090, Nose 1254, all the front steps to 1275-meter Freddi. Companies B and C were west of Mt. Rosso after taking Poggio Savena in their attack to the left of Company A. As Company A flanked the objective, Hill 1108, Company C was to make a frontal attack simultaneously from Poggio Savena.

After a fifteen-minute preparation by Cannon Company and the 347th Field Artillery Battalion, the attack jumped off at 1600. Company A worked its way up the southeastern slopes of 1108, with precision firing by the 81mm mortars of Company D, observed from Poggio Savena, materially aiding the advance. Company C on the left could only move forward but slowly through the thick brush and steep rock formations because of heavy casualties suffered from enemy fire.

Company A casualties were mounting. Actually the battle for Mt. Freddi was won on Hill 1108 where the enemy chose to defend in strength. Hill 1108



Highway 65 near Futa Pass the morning after the heavy wind and rain storm. This is typical Futa Pass weather.

fell only after a touch-and-go battle lasting all that afternoon and night, during which time the Germans and the men of Lieutenant Charles D. Tharp's leading 1st Platoon of Company A were so close that one of the white phosphorus shells laid on the enemy to screen the advance fell into the platoon. No one was hurt by the WP shell. With part of the 2d Platoon, the 1st Platoon closed in at daylight and in a daring attack took the hill and 14 prisoners. The greater number of the defenders had pulled out during the early morning hours.

The attack now continued northeast toward the nose of Freddi, 1254, and Freddi itself, the first Regimental objective, with Company C on the left and Company A on the right as before. By this time the 361st Infantry reported that during the night they had advanced elements along the highway to the eastern slopes of Mt. Beni, located just to the right of Freddi, with tank-infantry teams advancing on the highway town of La Mazzetta north and east of Beni.

Enemy small-arms and artillery fire slowed down the advance of the leading 363d Infantry companies. Reports of fresh enemy troops arriving in the area immediately to the rear of Freddi came in; this, coupled with the artillery and self-propelled-gun fire which was causing an increasingly large number of casualties, made it imperative that Freddi be captured without delay. The 3d Battalion was poised with the directive to skirt the western slopes of Mt. Freddi and capture Mt. Oggioli as soon as the 1st Battalion had cracked the initial resistance on Mt. Freddi. Observers from Colonel Woods' 1st Battalion observation post could now see that vertical terrain features were blocking the progress of the attacking Companies A and C. Company B, now commanded by Lieutenant Sullivan, was given the mission of enveloping the enemy left flank on Freddi as the 3d Battalion, with Company K in the lead, started moving to the west and north around Company B.

While Company B was crawling over the rugged slopes around the enemy flank, Company A continued its battering in the frontal attack, taking a toll of enemy dead and prisoners during the day. The attack was to continue until the fall of Mt. Freddi.

On the 26th the 2d Battalion was returned to the control of the Regiment and assembled in the vicinity of Traversa to give the men an opportunity to bathe, obtain fresh clothing and hot meals. This battalion was having its first relaxa-

tion since the start of the attack on the Gothic Line. During the time that the battalion had been attached to the 361st Infantry it had pushed across the Santurno River in the vicinity of Firenzuola and established advance positions at Pagliana and La Valli, which covered the flank of the 361st Infantry.

By 0630 the next morning, after a bitter night attack in the rain, Companies A and B were on Mt. Freddi after killing or capturing 80 of the enemy. Company B in moving up into the saddle between Freddi and 1035 overtook a German messenger who, with dripping rifles pointed threateningly at him, led a Company B group to his unit which was surrounded and captured. Freddi was then defended by two German companies. The company to the east had communication with the rear; the west company had not. The former had received instructions to pull back and had sent the runner to the other unit with those instructions. He was on his way when intercepted.

While prisoners continued to be taken and sent to the rear throughout the day, the 1st Battalion consolidated its positions on Mt. Freddi ready to aid in the attack on Mt. Oggioli if necessary. The 3d Battalion was led by Company K around the left in a column of companies to jump off for Mt. Oggioli in a joint operation with the 361st Infantry moving up the highway on the right flank.

Company K was to seize, in order, Hills 1153, 1131, 1168, 1256; Company L on the right was to take Hills 1065, 1091, 1060, and Oggioli (1290). Company I, in reserve, was to follow Company K at 500 yards to protect the left flank of the battalion and be prepared to assist Company K in the capture of Hill 1256 if needed. Heavy machine guns from Company M were set up on Freddi while mortars were emplaced on the highway in Covigliaio to support the attack. Artillery rolling barrages were available on call.

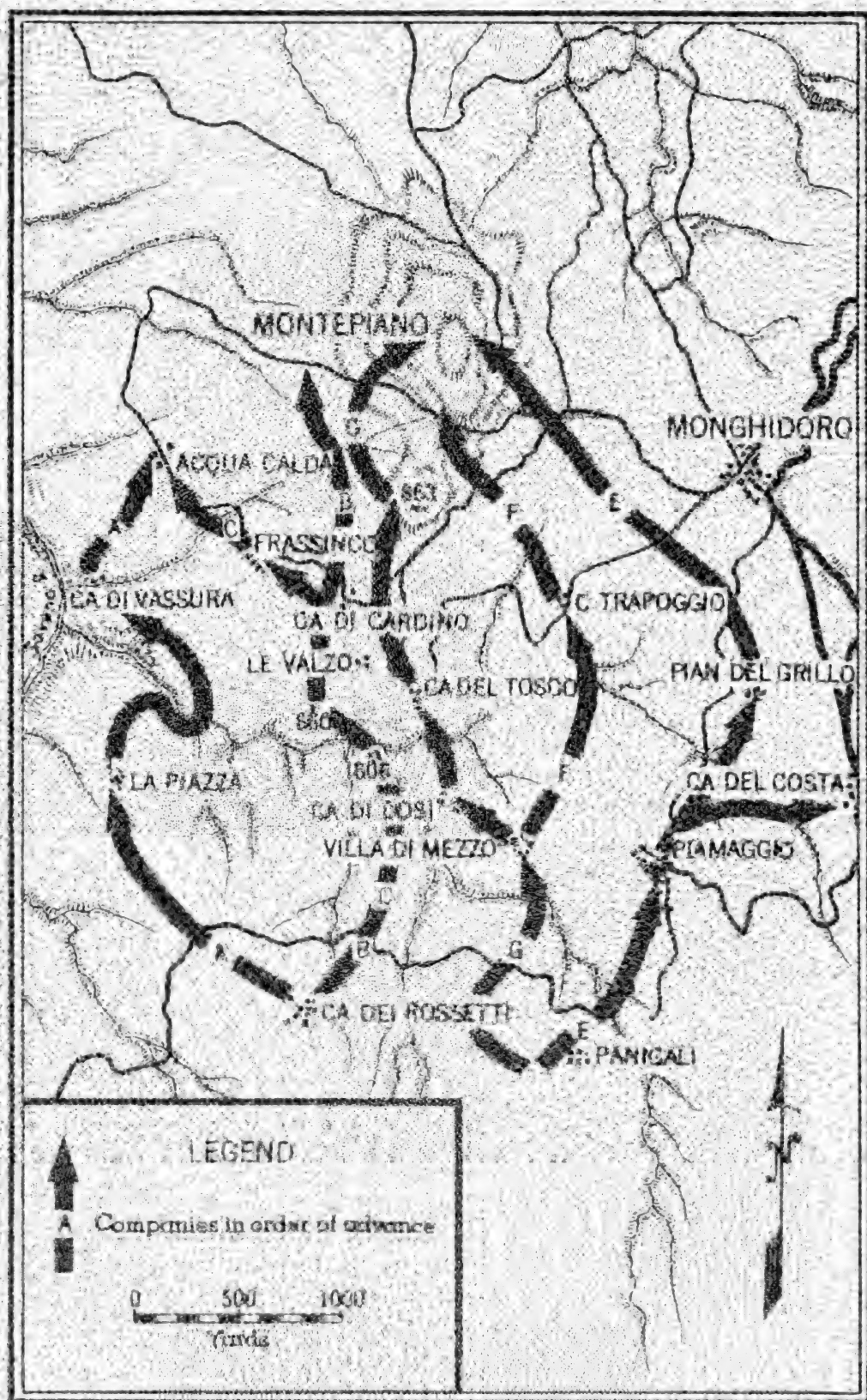
With Company K moving off 1035 and Company L skirting around to its position on the right, the attack moved swiftly forward with the two companies, roughly abreast, meeting little resistance even as they approached Mt. Oggioli through the driving rain. By the early afternoon, 28 September, Company L and elements of the 361st Infantry had taken and outposted Oggioli while Company K was securing its final objective, 1256, a nose of Oggioli.

The 1st Battalion moved forward behind the attack and both units spent the night on Mt. Oggioli, a night which was cold and wet but devoid of enemy action. The 2d Battalion remained behind in Traversa.

During the next morning, 29 September, the 1st and 3d Battalions continued the attack north through a heavy fog, the weather remaining wet and cold. Visibility, because of the fog, was poor, and it was not until near the end of the day that enemy fire was received. By this time the 1st Battalion had taken Ca dei Rossetti while advance elements of the 3d Battalion were across the lateral road in the town of Piamaggio, a gain of two and a half air miles, but much farther by way of the crooked, muddy trails which the infantry was forced to take.

One mile north of here on the highway was the town of Monghidoro. To its left was 911-meter Montepiano—the next objective of the 363d Infantry. Preparatory to the attack on Montepiano, scheduled for 0600, 30 September, the 2d Battalion moved up from Traversa to pass through the 3d Battalion and attack abreast of the 1st Battalion. While the 2d Battalion was delayed in moving into position, the 1st Battalion began the assault on Montepiano.

Montepiano wasn't one of those large land masses or outstanding terrain features selected by the enemy for defense and called the Gothic Line, but in



The Battle for Montepiano

its position just west of Highway 65 near Monghidoro it was the commanding ground and admirably suited for defense.

From Montepiano the Germans pushed outposts to the little settlements which surrounded, Ca di Vassura, Acqua Calda, Frassinco, Le Valzo, Ca del Tosco, Ca dei Dosi, Pian del Grillo, and Ca del Costa, forming a ring of defenses which protected not only Montepiano but also Monghidoro a thousand yards to the east. Both of these, the mountain and the town, looked across the broad expanse of ground cut up into compartments and cross compartments by the tributaries of the T. Savena, which flowed north along the left flank of the Regiment. Swollen from these heavy fall rains these creeks rushed and tumbled through channels carved from the rock, some of which had banks forming cliffs and escarpments 50 feet high, making crossings possible only at certain places, thus more or less dictating the routes to be used by the companies.

The Regimental plan for the downfall of Montepiano consisted of having two battalions on line, one in reserve. The 2d Battalion was to make the main effort on the right with the mission of capturing Montepiano itself. On the left of the Regimental sector the 1st Battalion would assist in the attack by moving forward, protecting the left flank of the 2d Battalion and maneuvering into a blocking position west of Montepiano. The 361st Infantry on the right was assigned the mission of taking the town of Monghidoro on the highway.

Both battalions kept their reserves (Companies B and F, respectively) following closely behind the leading elements and engaged in mopping up by-passed areas. As usual the enemy made extensive use of mines and booby traps, causing several casualties from *Schü* and other antipersonnel mines, forcing the attacking elements to proceed with caution.

The 2d Battalion jumped off at 0600, 1 October, from the vicinity of Panigali where Lieutenant Colonel John W. Angell, who had assumed command of the battalion in place of Lieutenant Colonel E. V. D. Murphy early that morning, had his command post, mortars, and reserve company initially located.

Ca dei Dosi, the first objective of Company G attacking on the left fell and by 0900 the company was pushing forward past Ca del Tosco to the southern nose of Montepiano, Hill 893. On the right of the sector Company E likewise moved rapidly forward meeting little resistance, and reported themselves in Pian del Grillo by 0730, about 800 yards from the jumping-off place. The 2d Platoon had forward elements already in the town when the remainder was caught in a mortar barrage and concentrations of machine gun and sniper fire. During the barrage the platoon leader and several men were wounded and communications with company headquarters were knocked out. In order to avoid being trapped, the platoon leader gave orders to withdraw from the concentration area. Staff Sergeant Ernest R. Threet took command of the platoon after running through the barrage into the town to contact and bring back the forward elements. Carrying the wounded with him, Threet made an orderly withdrawal. Company E dug in and remained until the following morning.

At 0900 things were going smoothly and according to plan. It was decided that Company F, in battalion reserve, should move from its position near Panigali north to the more convenient rear slope at Villa di Mezzo. When it arrived there at 1245 Company G had sent back six prisoners and reported an advance to within 300 yards of Montepiano without meeting much resistance from the enemy. Under these circumstances Company F did not remain at Villa di Mezzo, but continued forward.

Because the 2d Battalion was attacking along and to the left of Highway 65 the battalion aid station was set up in a draw at the end of the natural line of drift in the sector when the attack started. But as Company E and G gradually shifted toward the right flank the wounded from these two companies began to move back along the ridge there and were by-passing the aid station. Private First Class Walking Eagle, an aid man attached to the 1st Platoon of Company H, sized up the situation, intercepted several wounded on their way along the ridge, established a sheltered place and treated the patients on hand. Others came. When business was slack Walking Eagle roamed about the front collecting wounded men who had become lost. Those he found he carried back, treated, and saw that they were evacuated. Upon learning that a litter team had been lost for quite some time, he started off for the area in which they had been last seen and in an hour or so he found them hopelessly lost carrying a wounded man and brought them in. Over the period of time that he operated his aid station, Walking Eagle attended to over fifteen wounded. The whole area over which he worked was under almost constant enemy fire but as one witness put it, "Walking Eagle was all over the damned place."

The 2d Platoon of Company F received orders to move out of its position to clear the way for the advance of the company up a slope wooded with low, straggly, evergreen growth which led up to Montepiano between the already committed Companies E and G. After an unopposed advance of over 400 yards the platoon leader became suspicious of a trap and halted the platoon. At this point the enemy opened up on the advance elements with machine guns.

Heavy casualties incurred during the previous fighting had brought many replacements into the platoon who were in their third and fourth day of combat. One of these was Private Howard E. Weaver, who was acting as one of the lead scouts of the 2d Squad which was in front of the platoon. The initial burst from the German guns passed directly over his head and killed both the squad leader and the assistant squad leader behind him. The squad immediately hesitated in its advance and took cover. As the men lay under the machine-gun fire in the evergreens the platoon leader called over asking if there were someone present who could take command of the squad.

Private Weaver, on his fourth day of action, answered, "I'll take over, sergeant. I know what to do." He got up in the face of the machine-gun fire, reorganized the squad, steadied the men, and continued the advance up the hill at the front of his squad. Entering a clump of bushes, Weaver located a well-camouflaged enemy machine-gun emplacement by exposing himself to the fire. Cautiously crawling to within 35 yards of it, he pulled the pin out of a grenade and let fly. The grenade hit and rolled into the position, killing one German and wounding another. After sending his prisoner to the rear, Weaver gathered his squad and again started up the hill. A hundred yards farther another gun opened up. The action was repeated. Weaver exposed himself, located the gun, threw a grenade, this time from 25 yards, and captured the gunner and his assistant. The squad continued up the hill.

Near the crest Weaver came to a road with a high bank which looked like good cover for his men. Going forward alone to investigate, he walked down the road a bit. Here he spotted a German sniper hidden in one of the trees. Weaver's rifle cracked and the German tumbled to the ground. He moved the squad into the cover of the bank and went forward again to investigate a house on the crest of the ridge, the company's objective. Entering the house

he found two more snipers whom he captured, making a total of two killed and five prisoners taken by Weaver personally in the short time since he assumed command of the squad. Weaver was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for the action, and was later commissioned second lieutenant after attending officer candidate school.

In answer to a call for a scout, Private Marvin D. England, who had also been in the platoon only four days and was already leading the 1st Squad, moved forward. Although his platoon leader intended that he only go a short way forward, England crawled on until he almost fell into another enemy machine-gun emplacement. For some reason the German gunners didn't notice him, so England retreated about 25 yards and lobbed a grenade into the position, destroying it. Upon his return to the platoon, England led his squad farther up the hill where they encountered a second enemy gun. He left the squad in the cover of one of the stream banks running down the slope and went forward alone. He located the position, and destroyed it with another accurately placed grenade.

The 1st Platoon, in command of Staff Sergeant Ernest L. Johnson, had advanced even with the 2d Platoon in its fight up the slope toward Montepiano and, after taking a group of houses on the outskirts of the town of Monghidoro just to the east of the hill, went inside to investigate. In the kitchen they found faggots burning in the stone fireplace under a metal pot of water which was at the point of coming to boil. On the table was a chicken all cleaned and ready for the pot. This was manna from Heaven to the ever hungry GIs who had been existing on emergency K rations too long and were tired of them.

The Germans whom the platoon had chased out of the house left in such a hurry that they evidently forgot to mention the fact to their headquarters, for presently a lone German runner came down to the house with a message. Private Edward Poy, one of the guards, concealed himself until the runner was at the door, then took him prisoner and brought him into the house.

Shortly after this the guards sighted a loaded pack train of three mules moving down the road, which Sergeant Johnson soon brought under small-arms fire.

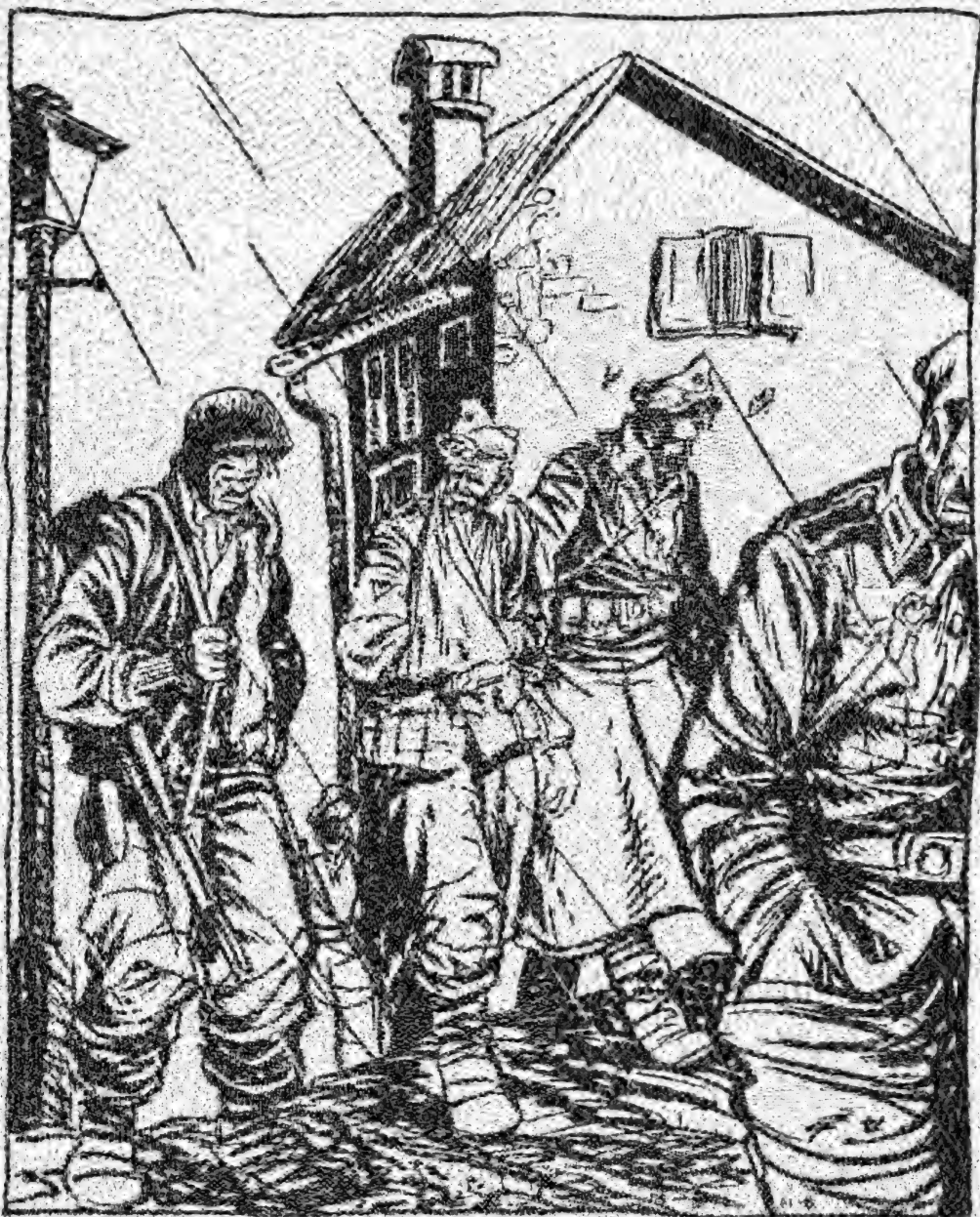
"That was a sight," he said. "We knocked one mule down and saw a second take off. Two Krauts were trying to get the third mule across an open field to some cover. One man was dragging on the reins for all he was worth while the other was pushing the mule just as hard from the rear. They couldn't budge him.

"We soon put a stop to that. After we had eliminated the Jerries the mule made its way down the slope to our position—so we took it prisoner too."

When inventory was taken the mule had donated 56 cans of salmon and sardines, 30 loaves of bread, 3 gallons of butter, and several cans of beef to the Allied cause. These were divided up between the squads and the mule was given some water for its services.

When the German runner was offered some of the captured rations he refused, saying that he'd been eating that stuff too long and was tired of it—he chose a K ration.

As the attack continued north of Villa di Mezzo, however, Company F was fired on by a strong German outpost holding C. Trapoggio, a group of buildings midway between the company and Montepiano. Company F returned the fire and a fierce fight developed which lasted all the rest of that day and far



"Fresh, spirited American troops, flushed with victory, are bringing in thousands of hungry, ragged, battle-weary prisoners
(News Item)

(Reprinted from Up Front by Bill Mauldin with the permission of Henry Holt & Company, Inc. Copyright, 1945, by Henry Holt & Company, Inc.) Bill Mauldin drew this cartoon for Stars and Stripes while visiting the 91st Division during the fall of 1944. He was inspired by optimistic accounts in Stateside newspapers commenting on the ease with which Allied forces were advancing in Italy. After encountering only exhausted, dirty, muddy GIs, he drew this cartoon which won for him the Pulitzer Prize.

into the night during which time the advance was held up and six more Germans taken prisoner, one of them wounded.

Meanwhile, Company G, far in advance of the other five rifle companies, had run into stiffening opposition on the southern slope of Montepiano. One platoon had fought its way up to 863, the satellite hill, but found it untenable because of withering fire coming from the commanding Montepiano crest. They withdrew a short way to covered ground to lick their wounds and gather strength for an attack the next day.

With the advance of the companies the 2d Battalion command post displaced forward to a house located about 400 yards below the enemy-held objective. Here it was subjected to heavy artillery, mortar, machine-gun, and sniper fire. The house was in such an advantageous and exposed position that Captain Henry Chase-Dunn, attached liaison officer from the 347th Field Artillery Battalion, was supporting Companies E, F, and G in their attack by directing artillery fire from a window on the third floor of the command post. Small-arms fire was hitting the wall of the house and occasionally the window frame, the glass itself having long ago succumbed to concussion. In fact Chase-Dunn was several times knocked away from the window by exploding shells as he corrected much needed fire on the bitterly resisting enemy. The results of this fire direction prevented any effective German counterattack from forming and also greatly disorganized the enemy defenses.

Some time during the early morning the German outpost holding up Company F from C. Trapoggio found it prudent to pull back and join the rest of their outfit. With this pressure lessened, Company F pushed forward with Company E and by 1300 all three companies were forming a ring around Montepiano, had thrown back one German attempt to counterattack, and were planning a coordinated attack on the objective for that evening, 2 October.

In the move up to this position Company G to the left of Company F met some enemy resistance. The platoon of which Private Cecil L. Smith was a member was called upon to neutralize a group of enemy machine guns which were delaying the advance. One gun in particular was delivering such accurate and telling fire that it was impossible for the platoon to maneuver. Snipers aided in protecting the guns.

Smith, a rifle grenade fixed, crawled alone under the fire to within 75 yards of the gun. With his first carefully aimed shot he made a direct hit on the emplacement, neutralizing its fire. With Smith's shot the platoon rushed forward.

He was then assigned to a flank patrol which shortly came under a heavy enemy mortar barrage the first shell of which landed so close to Smith that he was knocked unconscious, the other rounds landing right in the middle of the patrol killing all but one other man, who received serious wounds. When Smith "came to" the fire was still falling in the immediate area and it was plain that if both he and the wounded man did not get out of the area very soon they would be hit again. For the second time that day Smith subjected himself to heavy enemy fire and tediously managed to carry his wounded comrade out of the barrage to safety. He was killed in action later that same night in the attack on Montepiano.

As darkness closed in on Montepiano so did Company G from the south, Company F from the southeast, and Company E from the east, behind a curtain of artillery fire. The enemy was reluctant to give up this commanding terrain and fought bitterly, but the ring tightened yard by yard. At 2100 Company G

radioed headquarters that the Regimental objectives had fallen. It was the first company on top of Montepiano. Shortly after, Companies E and F made physical contact with Company G and the hill was secured against counter-attack. At the same time the 362d Infantry astride the highway attacked and took Monghidoro.

The plan of the 1st Battalion to block and protect the left flank of the 2d Battalion and aid in the capture of Montepiano called for Company A to move up into several small houses and farms named Ca di Vassura on the east bank of the Savena River some 2500 meters northwest from Ca dei Rossetti. By sound tactical approaches the distance was many times that far up and down hills covered with slippery, ankle-deep mud.

From jumping-off time at 0800 1 October, resistance was light and the Company moved forward rapidly for two hours. Suddenly rifle and machine-gun fire from the left front forced the leading scouts to take up positions as the company prepared to deploy. Captain William R. Regner found that the fire, although aimed, was coming from the area of the 133d Infantry, 34th Division, on the left. He called headquarters for permission to return fire, which was granted for forty minutes, after which 133d Infantry troops would be advancing into the fire zone and would be endangered by Company A's shots. The 133d Infantry with the help of the Company A fire support moved in on the enemy resistance and the advance continued after a delay of about an hour.

As the scouts approached Ca di Vassura in the middle of the afternoon they were again fired on from the several houses which made up the town. Deploying, the company took up the fight during which a German counterattack in strength developed. Captain Regner called for artillery and mortar fire, which in addition to the company's rifle, automatic-rifle and light machine-gun fire successfully broke up the enemy's attempt to regain lost ground before it had gathered momentum. The breaking up of the counterattack, however, did not break the back of the resistance, or dislocate the enemy from a well defended position.

Regner called Lieutenant Colonel Woods and informed him of the situation. The battalion commander made arrangements to put a protective curtain of artillery and mortar barrages around the draw in which the company was located in order to permit the withdrawal to cover the selection of a new approach to the objective.

Next morning they pushed on and took Ca di Vassura with little trouble, the enemy having withdrawn during the night. There orders came to proceed to the settlement of Acqua Calda, 500 yards farther north, where the company would be relieved by Company I of the reserve battalion.

While this was going on Company C was fighting its way up a parallel route to the right of Company A to the houses numbered 606 and Hill 660, an approach to Montepiano, which would have to fall before the Regimental objective. German resistance was heavy in front of Company C and the terrain difficult. The recent rains made the deep gorges almost impassable and machine-gun fire from the houses at 606 pouring down the gullies made progress even more difficult.

By 1450 Company C had overcome the latter obstacle. Lieutenant William W. Kelly in command reported that the houses had been taken with eight of the enemy killed and one prisoner taken; that the company was proceeding to Hill 660 and still meeting heavy resistance. The strong enemy delaying action,



The church of Santa Margherita in Lainya is a landmark to every 363d Infantry man.

however, was rapidly beaten back and within half an hour Company C was placing outposts on Hill 660 and digging in for the night.

Next morning a patrol went forward to reconnoiter the route and town of Frassinco some 800 yards to the north, and ran into antipersonnel mines, booby traps, and machine-gun fire which forced them to return to Hill 660 with five casualties but information upon which a coordinated attack could be planned.

At 1600, when the battalion again jumped off, Company C took Ca di Cardino with little trouble and prepared to attack Frassinco from the right flank, it being 400 yards a little north of west from Ca di Cardino. Softening up was required and no further movement was made until shortly before 0900 the following morning at which time the 1st Platoon of Company C approached Frassinco. Less than half an hour later, under continuous Cannon Company fires, the whole company had closed in and the entire town was organized to resist any German attempts to retake it.

That afternoon, 3 October, at 1330 Company B moved out of the reserve position at Ca dei Rossetti and around to the right flank of the battalion sector where it met only slight resistance. Following supporting artillery fire it advanced 500 yards north of Ca di Cardino located just east of Acqua Calda and Frassinco where Companies A and C respectively were located. Here Company B was attached to the 3d Battalion, the remainder of the 1st Battalion reverting to Regimental reserve. Company I relieved Company A at Acqua Calda early the morning of 3 October and was attached to the 1st Battalion after moving forward during the night from the town of Montalbano situated on the highway two and a half miles south of Monghidoro. Companies K and L moved into Company C's positions. The 3d Battalion, with Company B attached, assumed command of the left sector with orders to establish a line even with or slightly north of Montepiano. Patrolling, however, showed that the enemy had pulled back to an east-west line about three miles to the north of

which the town of Loiano on the highway and Ca di Bosco farther to the west were part. A change in plans resulted with the 3d Battalion (Company B replacing Company I) to move to Stiolo, midway between Montepiano and Loiano. Companies B, K, L, and M made the move against no resistance and continued the advance to the north while Company I followed to Stiolo and from there moved east to Roncobertolo near the Loiano-Ca di Bosco line, returning to 3d Battalion control. Meanwhile the 3d Battalion command post had moved up the axis of signal communication from Piamaggio to Ca Petanesca on the east slope of Montepiano to Ca dei Baldini to Stiolo, arriving there the night of 3 October. Companies B, K and L were still advancing against slight resistance.

The next two days the push continued and found the battalion moving forward in a column of companies, B, L, I, K, which by 0950, October 6, when the Regiment was ordered into Division reserve, were in the vicinity of Ca di Bosco occupying the high ground west of Loiano with the 2d Battalion on their right.

The next morning after taking Montepiano, October 3, the 2d Battalion had also attacked in a column of companies, with a platoon of five tanks attached, headed for Roncastaldo, halfway between Montepiano and Loiano. Company F led with Companies E and G following. Company B, attached to the 3d Battalion then advancing on Stiolo, was on their left flank with elements of the 362d Infantry advancing abreast to their right on the eastern side of Highway 65 towards Loiano.

By 1135 Company F was in Roncastaldo with orders to proceed up the road which ran through Roncastaldo and secure the road junction where it joined the highway (RJ 714). All neighboring units were approximately on the east-west line running through Roncastaldo and engineers had been as far north as that on the highway without meeting any of the enemy.

The road junction was secured by nightfall, with the battalion command post moving forward to Ca di Bonzi. Meanwhile on the right the 362d Infantry took the town of Loiano.

The 1st Battalion, less Company B, when it reverted to Regimental reserve, assembled between Montepiano and Monghidoro until October 6, when the Regiment became Division reserve, then moved to Lognola. At this time Company B was relieved of attachment to the 3d Battalion, going into an assembly area in the vicinity of Bibulano. The 2d Battalion, with the exception of Company E, occupied Loiano for the three days the Regiment was in reserve for the Division, with Company E outposting the positions around Bibulano where the 3d Battalion was assembled for the period.

During the rest, showers and clothing exchanges were available. As the fall weather was becoming quite chilly, especially after sundown, and there were frequent rains, wool sweaters, new field jackets, and sleeping bags were issued, the latter for the first time.

On 9 October at 1300 the Regiment moved out of the reserve areas into forward assembly areas and prepared to attack with one battalion, at 0600 the following morning, in a new sector to the right of the highway and the 362d Infantry. As the move was in progress battalion and company commanders were forward making a reconnaissance of the Division right sector where the 363d Infantry was to assist the 338th Infantry in the capture of 638-meter Mt. delle Formiche, then push the attack northwest in the Division sector. By supper-



Moving the organic transportation of the Regiment up the muddy highway from Loiano for the battle of the escarpment.

time on October 9 the entire Regiment had closed in forward assembly areas. Colonel R. W. Broedlow, commanding the 361st Infantry, was also planning for the commitment of his 2d Battalion, at 0600, 10 October.

The terrain which faced the 91st Division in October was the most precipitous of the whole Apennine area in the vicinity of Highway 65. On the highway was the desperately defended town of Livergnano which was to spell death or capture for all but twelve men of Company K, 361st Infantry, in addition to complicating the progress of the entire Division.

Beginning at Livergnano on Highway 65 and extending east for a distance of 2000 yards was an escarpment which averaged approximately 1500 feet in height. This cliff was honey-combed with caves hollowed out by the natives and taken over by the enemy for positions and living quarters; this, coupled with its almost vertical face and field of observation, made a natural fortress with every advantage, and its admirable defense qualities were exploited by the enemy in his delaying action. Almost as an extension of the escarpment, Mt. delle Formiche, shaped like a huge ant hill, rose to the immediate east with the heavy-walled church of Santa Maria di Zena on its peak. The escarpment and Formiche, with the church used by the enemy as an observation post, dominated the territory east of the highway for miles to the south.

At the foot of the escarpment flowed a small stream, the Rio dei Cani, which chopped up the gently rolling farmland immediately below into rough gullies and draws which were pounded constantly by enemy mortars from atop the escarpment. Where the escarpment turned north as it approached Formiche, so did the stream joining the tributary Zena and eventually flowing into the Po River far to the north.

The 363d Infantry, after extensive reconnaissance of the terrain, committed the 2d Battalion on 10 October in order to fulfill the mission of helping the 338th Infantry, 85th Division, on the right, in the capture of Formiche.

At 0800 the morning of the attack Company E, followed by Company G, moved out of the assembly area near Barbarola towards the settlement of Fornace on the northwest-southeast line of departure, contacted elements of the 338th Infantry, and with Company F on their left rear pushed forward,

meeting light enemy resistance. By noon the resistance began to increase although by this time appreciable gains—up to 1100 yards—had been made and Company E had taken Rantigola halfway up Formiche, outposting a platoon at the trail junction 454 to the east 800 yards, and another at several farm buildings (308) to the west about the same distance. The company was now within a half mile of the church on Formiche and well established on the hill, but separated from the crest by strata of upended rock whose upheaval centuries ago formed the cliffs, escarpments in the vicinity, and Formiche itself.

Meanwhile Company F was proceeding to the farm Fornacetta where it was met by machine-gun and small-arms fire which held up the advance. The 1st and 2d Platoons immediately engaged the enemy in a fire fight to cover the 3d Platoon as it moved up to outflank the farm and positions surrounding it. One man, while closing in on the house, was shot in the head as he ran across an open stretch but was found to be still alive by the aid man, Staff Sergeant Arthur L. Godfrey, who ran 50 yards through the machine-gun and rifle fire to his side when he saw him fall. After dragging him to a shell hole and giving first aid, Godfrey pulled the wounded man out of the hole and dragged him back the 50 yards out of the danger zone alone to where he could be evacuated to the aid station by litter team. This was the only casualty. While Company G in reserve and Company H supporting the attack remained at Pescare a half mile south of Fornacetta, Company F moved forward to continue the attack in the left half of the battalion sector at 1535 towards Bigallo. This lone farmhouse was located in the shadow of the escarpment where the cliffs turned north to follow the Zena stream bed. It was one of the places which was strategically important to the enemy defending one of the two possible routes which would eventually lead troops above the escarpment. The other route led straight up over the escarpment.

By 2050, however, Company F's daylight attack against Bigallo was held up and Lieutenant Colonel John W. Angell, commanding the 2d Battalion, requested permission to attack further under cover of darkness using two companies abreast, Company F on the left to continue for Bigallo, Company E on the right to capture Ca Nova to the northwest of Santa Maria di Zena, thereby outflanking the besieged Monte delle Formiche.

At 2100 the attack started. Five and a half hours later a Company F patrol had reached Bigallo and elements of Company E had approached to within a hundred yards of Ca Nova only to be driven back by intense small-arms and mortar fire by enemy defending both the houses at Ca Nova and Formiche. Company E assembled near Rantigola, where Company G joined them.

During the afternoon of the next day, 11 October, orders were received to push forward and to have the entire Regiment on the high ground to the front before morning. The reason for this order was not only to continue the aggressive action against the stiffening and reinforced German lines but also to relieve pressure on the 2d Battalion, 361st Infantry, which had gone around the escarpment between the cliffs and Bigallo and now found itself on a less steep portion of the escarpment in a saucer-shaped area, receiving strong enemy fire from the high ground almost surrounding it.

A brief reconnaissance was made by the 363d Infantry, and at dusk the entire Regiment was moving forward. The plan of attack was to have the 2d Battalion on the right continue across the west slope of Formiche, thus aiding in the capture of that hill and also protecting the right flank of the 1st Battalion which

was to follow the same route around the escarpment used by the 2d Battalion, 361st Infantry, and reinforce it, continuing the attack to the north. The 3d Battalion, on the left of the Regiment, would move forward from its assembly area at Ca de Sulmi to Sadurano, perched on the lower half of the escarpment, and from there climb up the face of the precipice.

Moving out of Rantigola in advance of the company to reconnoiter the line of advance, the 1st Platoon of Company E was in the process of checking a farmhouse when the rest of the company started to advance toward their positions. The enemy, the platoon had discovered, was emplaced on one of the cliffs to the front from where they could bring down final protective bands of fire along the muddy exposed fields below, through which the company would have to advance.

Company E's route of approach was from around a knoll which offered some cover, across a 200-yard-long fire-swept draw, then across 400 yards of plowed field to the houses. The platoon looked on the impending disaster helplessly. There seemed no way to give a warning of the trap which the company was about to enter. From his position in the house Private Lewis B. Cullar, one of the riflemen in the 1st Platoon, could see the head of the company come around the curve of the knoll ready to enter the draw. Leaving the house, Cullar started running across the 400 yards of mud and furrows of the open field while the enemy's bullets followed him.

"Get back, goddammit, get back!" he shouted. Somehow Cullar got across the field without getting hit. The scouts saw him, heard his frantic warnings and halted the company in time. Many men of Company E owe their lives to Cullar's courage.

Before Company E moved out of Rantigola the afternoon of October 11 the enemy began shelling the town with white phosphorus, fragments of which started the many haystacks in the farmyards burning and soon some of the buildings. The two companies, E and G, were forced to move out of the fire-swept target area by way of the south but immediately made a U turn and attacked toward Ca del Monte on the right edge of the Formiche escarpment where they remained until 0755 the morning of 12 October, patrolling to the front during the night. In the attack the next morning (coordinated with the 338th Infantry) one platoon acting as point moved 500 yards north to Ca Nova. As the remainder of the company closed in at 1155 the point platoon advanced to the west another 600 yards to Ca Parma. Company G was ordered to join Company E using the same route of advance to aid not only in securing the town but also in pushing the attack farther to the north along the regimental right or east boundary. It was to take Hill 411, located across the tributary Zena and up a draw to the top of the escarpment, the river crossing to be made at Zenarella east of the hill. The strategy here was to alleviate the situation centered around the saucer in the left of the Regimental sector where strong fire was coming in from the front and both exposed flanks. Hill 411 commanded all this terrain and was particularly troublesome as an observation post while in German hands. However, in spite of every effort which could be made against well selected enemy positions, very little further gain was made by the battalion. With the substantial 363d Infantry gains that had been made in flanking Formiche, the 338th Infantry secured positions well forward on that hill by dark 12 October, and although Formiche was still very much in enemy hands, the mission assigned the 2d Battalion, 363d Infantry, had been



Part of the escarpment. The town of Sadurano can be seen in lower center.

completed and it was ordered to assemble in the vicinity of Ca Parisi as Regimental reserve by 1700, 13 October.

At the time the entire Regiment was committed in an effort to get on top of the escarpment the afternoon of 11 October and Company E was still in Rantigola, General Clark sent word that regardless of circumstances the Regiment was to get one battalion on the escarpment to help the beleaguered 2d Battalion, 361st Infantry, whose position in the saucer had become precarious. The saucer was surrounded on two sides by the steep escarpment, dominated on a third by Hill 411 and farther east by the enemy-held ridge which extended north from Formiche. The only entrance to the saucer was covered by fire from Hill 411 and the ridge, while the Germans above tossed or rolled down hand grenades and enemy mortars on the cliff lobbed shells over. It was later learned that these mortars, located at Ca delle Fate were directed by two German observers who were below the Americans with a field telephone and because of the peculiar tilt of the saucer could look up and see almost every slit trench.

The result was that by 12 October the two companies in the saucer had suffered 31 killed and 141 wounded, or about half of the men who had gone up. Furthermore, it was a twelve-hour litter haul and messengers required four hours each way. Supply was equally difficult.

Colonel Magill told Lieutenant Colonel Woods, commanding the 1st Battalion, that his mission was to get up on the escarpment by daylight to relieve the pressure on the right flank where the two 361st Infantry companies were. At 1535, 11 October, the 1st Battalion began its move from Barbarola to Sassi at the foot of the escarpment in a column of companies, A, C, B, to be in position to make a night move up to where the two 361st Infantry companies were in the saucer. Lieutenant Colonel Woods, at the same time that he gave his order to the company commanders, also advised them of General Clark's message, and in addition warned Captain Regner, commanding Company A, to reach Sassi by 2330 so that his company would not become mingled with the 3d Battalion units which were also moving up under the escarpment towards Sadurano that same night to climb over the face of the precipice at dawn.

Under cover of fog which screened its movements across the rolling fields, Company A reached Sassi by the required time, and by 0630 was in physical contact with the 361st Infantry companies. By daylight Company C was in position to the left of Company A, with Company B below the cliff in reserve.

Lieutenant Colonel Woods went forward with a radio operator and messenger to check the positions of the companies and was not satisfied with the saucer location because of the commanding terrain surrounding. He went to a high point on the ground to look at the adjacent territory, oriented himself, and decided to launch an attack to seize the ground which overlooked his troops, House 376, Hill 411, and Hill 376.

That night at dusk the attack materialized. Company B was committed around the right of the saucer securing the house at 376 and moving forward up Hill 411. Dawn of 13 October found the companies of the 1st Battalion in positions which proved to be nearly ideal for further attack. Hill 411 was occupied by Company B, thereby greatly reducing the threat to the Regimental right flank and permitting what was left of the two 361st Infantry companies to rejoin the attack of their regiment while Companies A and C consolidated themselves in their saucer positions.

That afternoon, coordinating with Company B, a Company A patrol swooped over the top of the escarpment and down on Ca delle Fate, capturing 22 prisoners and overrunning the mortar positions. They drove the rest of the occupying Germans into the rifle muzzles of two Company B platoons which had gone down the draw to the east of Hill 411, swung around to the front near the house on the reverse slope of Hill 376, destroyed eight more mortar positions and taken eight prisoners. These, with 35 who had been driven out of Ca delle Fate by the Company A attack and taken prisoner by Company B were placed under guard in the house. A security patrol was sent to investigate the house at 368. The rest of the company moved forward by the same route and while doing so ran into another German patrol of eight men which was quickly subdued, captured, and added to those already in hand.

While the company was still advancing an enemy machine gun opened fire, killing five men. The company deployed immediately and called for mortar fire which knocked out the gun and enabled the company to resume the advance to the house at 368 and Hill 367 where they established positions for the night.

Cannon Company's support of the attack by fire from positions below the escarpment near Sadurano proved highly effective. Strewn about the yard of the house at 368 were a knocked-out Nazi antitank gun, the remains of a blown-up ammunition dump, a blazing tank, and a burning 88mm gun with its prime mover.

Simultaneous with the original attack of the 1st Battalion on the escarpment and the 2d Battalion's fight on Mt. delle Formiche, the 3d Battalion assembled in the vicinity of Sadurano at the base of the escarpment and proceeded to climb right up the face of it by dawn of 12 October.

Company K led the audacious attack up the steep, almost vertical cliff and was engaged by the enemy in stiff hand-to-hand fighting as it neared the top.

Because of the narrow route up the cliff, revealed by an Italian partisan, only a relatively small number of men could be in actual contact with the enemy at one time. This made the top of the escarpment easily defended by the Germans, but soon the company forced its way over the top and fought for space to bring up reinforcements to bolster the small "cliffhead," supported by Com-

pany M mortars emplaced about 200 yards from the base of the escarpment in flat open ground.

At noon the toehold on the escarpment was still being bitterly contested by the Germans whose counterattacks were repeatedly being thrown back by Company K supported by the Company M mortarmen, the latter dropping their shells within 25 yards of the friendly troops. To combat this mortar fire which was taking a heavy toll from each counterattack, the Germans spotted the Company M positions and immediately placed large-caliber, rocket and counter-mortar fires on them. In addition to this a group of the enemy which was emplaced about 400 yards to the right flank was doing appreciable damage to mortar positions with a machine gun, rifles and antipersonnel grenades.

While this kept up the crews were forced to take cover. At 1300 during a particularly heavy countermortar barrage the Company M forward observer with Company K on top of the escarpment phoned down that he could see two enemy tanks and four troop carriers forming to join the effort to throw the company back off the cliff, and that they were too close to friendly troops to risk artillery fire. The platoon sergeant, Staff Sergeant Louis C. Finnell, took the call and said that he thought they could probably get a little fire on it.

Finnell took off from his slit trench alone and ran to the closest mortar. One shell coming in detonated within five feet of him, showering him with mud and stones but miraculously not injuring him. Quickly registering in on the enemy group, Finnell began to fire for effect under phoned fire direction from his observer, shouting encouragement to each shell as it left the muzzle. While the fire mission was going on the Germans fired at least 50 rounds of large-caliber artillery at Finnell besides peppering away with the machine gun; when the mission was completed Finnell had knocked out the four troop carriers, forced the two tanks to withdraw, and had effectively broken up the counterattack. Company K, however, was still fighting against automatic and small-arms fire to stay on top of the cliff, and suffering casualties by the minute. Two company messengers on duty at the command post practically underneath the attack, Private First Class Fernando C. Garcia and Private First Class James J. Harding, saw ten men fall wounded in two or three minutes. Going to their aid they carried two of the more seriously hurt men into the shelter of a building where they administered first aid. Discovering that further medical attention was necessary they made a litter and one at a time carried the two wounded men across the fields to the aid station after first making two more trips to help in the other eight wounded men.

With the tank threat broken up for the time being and Company K little by little enlarging the area above the escarpment, Company L was committed as reinforcements to the left of Company K during the afternoon of 12 October, a move which was later to prove of prime importance to the continued advance of the Regiment.

"The Company L men too," said Lieutenant Colonel Glen C. Long later, "slung their rifles over their shoulders and climbed the face of the escarpment on their hands and knees. This was the element of surprise that the Germans did not expect and as a result Company L was on top before the enemy even realized it. They counterattacked to drive Company L off the escarpment but they held. By nightfall the companies were firmly established on the escarpment and the Germans had lost a determined and well defended defense line."

Now the two companies continued pushing forward and as the cliffhead wa



Road maintenance was difficult at best, and this area boasted some of Italy's worst mud.

further enlarged were joined by Company I, commanded by Captain Frank T. Hyland. Company K fanned out to the front and right cleaning up the highest part of Hill 592 and Houses 442, then combining with Company I in a pincers move on Hill 513, the next high ground in the chain of hills forming a ridge leading to the north. When Hill 513 was taken Company K reverted to battalion reserve and followed Company I as they took in succession Hills 510, 450, 360, and prepared to move in on Hill 357 and the farm C. Pietra. Meanwhile Company L on the left had captured 31 Germans at Ontaneto then moved on to Ca di Bortignano, where it spent the night abreast of Company I.

The following day very little progress was made, the time being spent in consolidating gains, reorganization and mopping up by-passed areas. The two battalions above the escarpment had driven the enemy back 500 yards from the top of the cliff and had cleared the sector with the exception of the castle of Casola in which 89 German diehards still held out. The castle was in such a location 400 yards from the edge of the cliff that artillery fire couldn't hit it. Mortars were ineffective against the stout walls and roof. The 2d Battalion, 361st Infantry, now out of the saucer, was ordered by its regimental commander to move across the rear of the 3d Battalion, 363d Infantry, and attack on the left of the Regiment to seize Hill 474 above Livergnano which contained enemy forces firing into the left flank of the 3d Battalion. They took Casola on the way across.

In the gains above the escarpment 80 prisoners had been taken, many of whom were killed by their own artillery fire while being taken back to the prisoner of war cage. Even this, however, didn't deter the remaining prisoners from calling to enemy in other by-passed positions to surrender.

At 0600 14 October the attack continued against moderate to heavy resistance, particularly on the west flank. Some doubt was expressed by the battalion commanders as to the advisability of progressing farther until some advance had been made on the high ground along Highway 65 on the left and the ridge line beginning at Mt. delle Formiche and extending north on the right.

Furthermore, Livergnano was rapidly becoming a critical point as it was the stopgap in the supply route which must necessarily be used to continue the attack and advance. There was no practical means of getting food, ammunition and water above the escarpment except the goat trail over which the 1st Battalion had moved up and, although this was later made into a road by the engineers over which tanks were brought up, at this time it was still a narrow muddy path which in spots lost itself in the foliage and underbrush. It was to be several days yet before even the sturdy little jeep got above the escarpment and in the meantime mules were the only means of transportation to the front line units.

On one occasion the mules that were delivering supplies to Company K became excited and dispersed by enemy artillery fire, two of them tumbling down into a 150-foot deep canyon. It so happened that these two were the ones carrying the company's entire supply of cigarettes and its supply of *Stars and Stripes*, the Army newspaper, both items which were very much looked forward to. When the train arrived at the company without cigarettes and *Stars and Stripes* Captain Fulton, commanding the company, immediately organized two patrols to search for the missing mules, and the important morale factors they carried. When one of the patrols located the canyon and climbed down the

vertical side it discovered that the newspaper mule had been killed by its fall. The cigarette mule was nowhere to be found. The papers recovered, the patrol scaled the canyon and delivered them to the company.

Came daylight. One of the GIs looked down into the canyon. There was the cigarette mule alive, still fully loaded, happily making its way toward the German line. Calling several of his buddies, the soldier took off on a dead run and by a successfully executed encirclement brought back both mule and cigarettes. The smokes were issued; the mule was returned to Army service; and the enemy, whose cigarettes were notoriously poor, would undoubtedly have been disappointed at the way things turned out had he known anything about it.

It was only through constant work by the Ammunition and Pioneer Platoons of the 3d and 1st Battalions, commanded by Lieutenants John P. Lowe, Jr. and Alfred B. Mallow, respectively, and Company C, 316th Engineers, that even the mule trails were kept open. In some places it was necessary to widen the paths by blasting out the solid rock, in others it was necessary to build stretches of corduroy road by laying logs side by side. In all places the trails were slippery, dangerous, and covered with mud which was anywhere from several inches deep to where it would seep in over the top of combat boots.

The morning of 14 October the advance continued with the two battalions still abreast, attacking along the two parallel ridge lines which developed above the cliff; 3d Battalion on the west, 1st Battalion on the east. The 2d Battalion was still in Regimental reserve at the base of the escarpment, and making preparations to move to Ca delle Fate in the afternoon.

Both battalions attacked at 0600, the 3d Battalion with Company I on the right side of their ridge pointing for Hill 427, the farm C. Pietra, 300 yards north of the farm Casetto, and 500 yards farther north, C. Valpiana. Company L on the left side of the ridge, with Company K just below, had as their objectives the farm 478, Hill 484 and the settlement of Montecuccolli 1000 yards north of Ca di Bortignano.

The 1st Battalion was to capture the town of Querceto, the four unnamed houses overlooking the town, and the Siamese-twin villages of C. Torre and C. Fiume, 1000 yards north of Querceto.

At the 0600 jump-off time the companies were abreast along an east-west line covering the Regimental sector on an average of 500 yards from the brink of the escarpment. From east to west: Company C was on Hill 376; Company B along the high ground Hill 376 and 368 just north of Ca delle Fate, where Company A was; Company I on Hill 513; Company L at Ca di Bortignano with a platoon on Hill 510; Company K in battalion reserve at the houses 442 near Ontaneto.

Company A descended on Querceto before the early morning fog had disappeared and immediately opened fire on the four unnamed houses to the north. Company I took Hill 427 400 yards west of the town and moved along the ridge line towards C. Pietra while Company L was held up by fire coming from the vicinity of Highway 65 on their left flank.

Two enemy tanks accompanied by foot troops were moving south on the highway at the same time that German armor along the lateral Zena-Zula road to the front opened up on the advancing elements. With artillery called on the tank and infantry columns, Company L by early afternoon had taken and consolidated its first objective, the houses at 478, while K closed into Ca di Bortignano behind them. In these positions the attack was held up for the night.

On the left, along the highway, little progress had been made until 2130 when patrols of the 2d Battalion, 361st Infantry, into Livergnano reported the town abandoned by the enemy. This was good news because, in addition to relieving the supply situation, tanks and antitank guns could be brought above the escarpment to combat the enemy armor farther along the highway and on the Zena-Zula road to the front. There was, however, a section of the highway below Livergnano which had been blown out by the enemy. The engineers worked feverishly all night to repair and fill it in and, although no vehicles passed that night, by 0600, 15 October, the road to Livergnano was open and arrangements were made to sweep the cliff road from there to Sadurano and around the eastern edge of the escarpment, where more engineers were enlarging the goat and mule trail. At the same time the rubble that had so littered Livergnano that even tanks couldn't force their way through, was being shoveled back off the highway, and the road which branched off above the escarpment to Ontaneto and the 3d Battalion was being cleared of mines.

To counterbalance this break in the supply and mobile fire support situation, the enemy was massing more and more armor and foot troops along the Zena-Zula lateral road. A look at the II Corps map of movements of the German divisions showed that since the breakthrough of the Gothic Line in September there had been a gradual shifting of the enemy units until they greatly outnumbered the 91st Division facing them. One of the more obvious reasons for this shift was the protection of the industrially important city of Bologna, now within sight of the 91st Division attackers.

As a result of this gradual shift progress was slow against the stiffening enemy resistance. Throughout the night of 14-15 October intense artillery preparations fell over the entire Regimental area, and Cannon Company with the 347th Field Artillery Battalion were kept busy with retaliatory fire missions. Cannon Company fires, observed by liaison officer Lieutenant Arthur L. Geiger, fired on and destroyed one enemy self-propelled 88mm gun, two enemy antitank guns, and an ammunition dump at C. Torre and C. Fiume early the following morning while the 1st Battalion consolidated positions in and around the town of Querceto and the 3d Battalion continued its attack with Company I engaged in a bitter fire fight along the ridge line for C. Pietra. As the enemy was slowly driven back, a ten-man patrol, led by Technical Sergeant Claude E. Matthews, deployed into two groups around a small hill to the south of the houses and advanced up two foot paths, one around either side of the hill, under cover of rockets, antitank grenades, and supporting mortar and machine-gun fire from his own (Company I) and Company M heavy weapons.

As the two groups converged on C. Pietra and came within hand-grenade range, their audacious attack so unnerved the 40 Germans defending the place that they left in a rout, abandoning in what turned out to be a battalion command post much valuable equipment including a radio and the battalion records. The Germans also left 7 dead and 5 prisoners.

Immediately after occupying the buildings, the patrol organized for a counterattack and none too soon. Covered by a mortar barrage the enemy came back to retake their command post but were driven off with several more casualties. Matthews and his group held the houses until the rest of the company reached him three and a half hours later, and continued forward toward the next objective, Casetto, 300 yards north.

Meanwhile Company L on the left had taken Hill 484 and moved on to the



Both tanks and tank destroyers aided the assault by fire. The meager, inadequate road net prevented close-in support.

east side of the ridge to avoid enemy fire coming into its flank from the ridge along which Highway 65 ran and along which were still German tanks and infantry. At this time a call was made to get tanks up to support the 3d Battalion attack. Less than a half hour later the engineers reported that tanks had moved over the rubble and out of Livergnano, cut right above the escarpment and were approaching Outaneto to report to the 3d Battalion.

Further, arrangements had been made to bomb and strafe the lateral road from Zena to Zula north of the 1st and 3d Battalions to reduce the enemy tank threat and prepare for the next morning when a new effort to penetrate the enemy's defenses and push to Bologna was to be made at 0500.

Little more gain was made in the afternoon and reconnaissance was made for the new attack. German artillery and tank fire continued to jeopardize movement in the Regimental area, and several of these tanks were knocked out, two at C. Trieste, one of which had just scored two direct hits on a house occupied by Company B. At 1830 the 2d Battalion command post at Ca delle Fate received a shelling, several hits being made on the house. Lieutenant Colonel Angell, commanding, was injured, and Major George C. Kotchik, executive officer, immediately assumed command.

The attack the morning of 16 October called for the 1st and 3d Battalions to continue forward in their respective sectors with the 2d Battalion to outpost the Regimental right flank until such time as the unit on the right could push forward and protect that flank from fire from Mt. delle Vigna, which afforded excellent observation to the enemy.

For the capture of C. Torre and C. Fiume, those two small towns so close together that they resembled one, the 1st Battalion had advanced one Company A platoon to C. Pietra on the ridge to the west in the wake of Company I the previous afternoon. Attack plans called for the remainder of Company A to move back along the trail up the ridge, pick up the forward platoon and under supporting fire advance and capture the few houses in C. Torre on the left when artillery and mortar fires lifted. This move would be closely coordinated with that of Company C, which was to form the right arm of the pincers closing in on C. Fiume in a like manner, and coordinating with Company A and the lifting of the fires. Company F took over the Company C positions on Hill 368

when the attack jumped off, and Company G occupied Querceto in place of Company B. Company E took up positions to the east of Querceto.

The plan worked beautifully. Both companies closed in on the towns simultaneously under both supporting and enemy artillery fire. The fires kept the enemy penned in the houses. One, to which a squad of Company C under acting squad leader Private First Class Harry F. Gifford was assigned, was in a particularly difficult location on the forward slope of a barren knob. However, under the covering fire they had no trouble in approaching to within 75 yards of the building. Gifford ordered his squad to cover him with their rifles as he crawled toward the house. As he neared a door he saw it slowly close.

Realizing that there was no doubt about Germans being inside, Gifford crawled carefully along the wall until he reached the door, and called for those inside to give themselves up. When he received no answer a grenade followed his words and three Germans came out through the smoke, their hands raised. Gifford directed them to a spot about 20 yards from the house when an artillery shell landed nearby, killing one of the prisoners. The other two ducked back into the shelter of the house. Again Gifford ordered them out, and when he got no answer threw in two more grenades—this time 19 Germans walked out and surrendered to him.

In moving into C. Torre and C. Fiume, Companies A and C captured a total of 1 German officer and 33 enlisted men. The battalion was ordered to take good covered locations and provide fire support for units on the right in their advance.

Meanwhile, the tanks that were moving up to support the attack of the 3d Battalion found themselves stopped just north of Ca di Bortignano by the slippery, muddy, narrow trails. Inasmuch as this prevented any close tank-infantry action the armor took up positions and supported the attack by fire. By 0530, a half hour after the jump-off, Company I had taken Casetto and was planning to advance at daybreak against C. Valpiana at the end of the ridge. Company L had taken the trail on the east side of its ridge and, keeping fire from the highway off it in this manner, attacked and reduced Hill 387 across the draw from and abreast of Company I before it became light enough to see. From here Company K would take over and press forward while Company I took Valpiana and captured the lone house south of C. Torriani, 500 yards north along the trail from Hill 387.

By 0900, 16 October, the second phase of the attack was well under way with the advancing Company K meeting resistance. Enemy troops were moving from Barchetta down the trail which led southeast toward C. Valpiana and the attack of Company I, and Company K was engaged in firing on a tank located in a draw to their right front whose position there could cause numerous casualties if it were not taken care of before further advance. As the fight developed it was discovered that there were two more German tanks in the same area and in addition to artillery fire which had been covering the draw, fighter-bomber missions covering the entire lateral road were due at noon.

Thirty-five minutes before the expected air attack the enemy laid a thick white smoke screen over the entire Regimental area, hiding the territory to the front. Although the Germans had enough personnel and armor to make what might have been a successful counterattack in strength to recapture limited objectives, there were no roads in their lost ground over which their tanks could go. They were immobile once they got off the good roads, in the Americans'

case the highway, and in the Germans' case the Zena-Zula and its few short branches. The German armor was suffering casualties from artillery fire but in this situation where targets were many and opportunities for knocking them out plentiful, the trails in the 363d Infantry sector were too few, too muddy, and too narrow to bring up any weapon capable of knocking out German tanks except the bazooka. Because there were so many targets—armor and foot troops—the 347th Field Artillery Battalion and Cannon Company were taking such a toll of both, it is reasonable to assume that no counterattack was planned and that the smoke screen had been laid to conceal this multitude of targets and reduce the number of casualties that resulted. Actually, no counterattack did develop although precautions had been taken.

Little further forward movement was made by the Regiment on the afternoon of 16 October pending the outcome of coordinated attacks of units on either flank which were meeting stiff resistance both on the highway ridge to the west and the Formiche-Vigna-Ceresa ridge to the east. The 363d Infantry attacks had carried it so far forward of adjacent units that the flank on the right was exposed for 1500 yards, necessitating the use of the 2d Battalion as flank protection. On the left flank the Germans still controlled a thousand yards of the highway which overlooked 3d Battalion positions and routes of attack. The 1st Battalion, however, received orders at 1600 to advance to the intermediate objective of Hill 357, five hundred yards north of C. Torre and C. Fiume. Company B, which had been in reserve, came forward during the night and attacked the hill at dawn the morning of 17 October. Despite mortar and artillery opposition the company captured both the hill and the house on its forward slope at the same time that Company I moved into C. Valpiana against similar opposition, plus small-arms fire from enemy defending the farm. Company K was to advance to Hill 361 north of C. Torriani, followed by Company L.

From these positions the many targets of opportunity were engaged by artillery and cannon fire directed from observation posts which in all cases were exposed and in many novel. In one, where the only way in which a plain view of the enemy could be had was to set up the post on the top floor of one of the houses, five men volunteered to do the observing. One of them, Private Norman P. Katz, spotted a German machine-gun crew about to set up their gun. He let them get it into position then shot the gunner. He yelled at the assistant gunner in German and when he looked up shot him too.

Twenty minutes later an artillery shell knocked the roof of the house down, wounding all of the men there but Katz, who stayed and kept the platoon leader informed of untoward enemy activities. About an hour later another shell partially destroyed the house and Katz was ordered down. He obeyed, but after a few minutes rest insisted on going up again. A third shell came in, carrying away a good portion of what was left of the house, convincing even Katz, who received a few minor cuts from falling rocks and plaster, that perhaps a safer place could be found from which to observe.

During the advance all efforts were bent to get antitank weapons forward and into positions which would enable them to reduce the armored threat to the front. While engineers blasted and shoveled and carved roads to get tanks and antitank weapons up, Antitank Company, commanded by Captain William P. Gooldy, was using mules, oxen, bulldozers, jeeps, trucks, and winches to move the guns through the deep mud and rain which turned footpaths into

streambeds. Soaked to the skin from the downpours, one platoon worked all one night in one place where four oxen and eight mules together couldn't budge a 57mm antitank gun out of the quagmire. Company C, 316th Engineers, brought up a bulldozer and finally even that broke down. A second bulldozer came forward to build a road as the guns moved slowly forward, but after 200 yards that too got stuck and tumbled down the side of a deep ravine.

"After that bulldozer went over the side of the bank the engineers brought up still another one to make a road for my guns," said Lieutenant Lee V. Zavoral. "At one point the trail was so narrow with a steep bank on one side that it appeared impossible for the dozer to make it without rolling over the bank, so Captain Coulter, commanding Company C, 316th Engineers, got atop the dozer himself and miraculously got by, the bank cracking and partly caving in as he did so. He did a wonderful job."

The platoon, led by Lieutenant Jacquelin M. Samuels, tore a 57mm gun down into parts when everything else bogged down and tried ox carts, throwing camouflage nets over the white oxen so that they wouldn't be spotted too easily by the Germans if the weather cleared. That, however, is what happened, and they took a heavy shelling.

"The oxen were the only thing that didn't get stuck for us," explained Lieutenant Samuels. "But when we got shelled the Italians who were driving the oxen took off and we couldn't find them. The oxen wouldn't 'via' for me."

In another place three jeeps were used in tandem to get the guns up a steep mountain slope. The rear end was torn out of one of the jeeps, but the guns got up. Private First Class Wayne Kimple volunteered to take the guns the rest of the way in daylight up the narrow muddy trail under perfect enemy observation with his jeep. He did get two forward to C. Torre, with a third in reserve at Casola. Meanwhile at 0530 the morning of 18 October the 3d Battalion continued the attack, with Company K leading, for Hill 361 north of C. Torriani, at the end of the ridge along which they had been attacking, followed by Company L which was to occupy C. Torriani once it was taken. Company I was to remain at Valpiana and protect the right flank of the battalion plus aiding the attack by fire. An hour after the start of the attack Company K was on the hill and Company L was 400 yards south of C. Torriani, both receiving heavy machine-gun and small-arms fire from west of the highway in addition to direct tank fire into their positions. This situation did not change throughout the morning, but shortly after noon Company L reported that it was in C. Torriani.

At this time the company locations were, from west to east across the Regimental front: Company L, C. Torriani; Company K, Hill 361; Company I, Valpiana; Company B, Hill 357; Companies A and C, C. Torre and C. Fiume. The 363d Infantry was the Fifth Army salient pointing at Bologna. Colonel Magill phoned General Livesay and gave him the situation, adding that plans had been made to pass the 2d Battalion through the 1st Battalion as soon as a coordinated attack with the 133d Infantry, 34th Division, now on the right flank, could be arranged. The general replied that it would be necessary to wait the outcome of the attacks of the 362d Infantry on the left flank and the 133d Infantry on the right flank who were meeting strong opposition in the attempts to straighten the lines, before any further 363d Infantry forward movement would be advisable. The 362d Infantry attack was scheduled for 2000, the 133d's for 2330; the former for Hill 357 and the town of Canovetta, both or

the highway overlooking the 3d Battalion's positions; the latter first for Castello di Zena, then Monte Belmonte overlooking the 1st Battalion's positions.

Throughout the day of 18 October the companies remained as above preparing the area to the front for future movement by the extensive use of observed artillery and Cannon Company fires, beside the use of the heavy-weapons companies who employed mortar and machine-gun fire to remove all possible counterattack threats from draws and gullies to the immediate front of the riflemen.

During the afternoon the command posts of both Regiment and 1st Battalion were visited by representatives of the 133d Infantry, which had been ordered to seize Mt. Belmonte, for the purpose of reconnaissance and to make plans for the commitment of one battalion of the 133d Infantry through the 363d sector. It was many months before the town of Canovetta on the highway fell, or for that matter, Hill 357. Belmonte wasn't secured either for quite a while, and by the time it was the 363d Infantry had reverted to Division reserve. The castle at Zena fell on the afternoon of October 21.

Until relieved 23-24 October the companies remained static and improved their positions, kept artillery, cannon, and mortar barrels hot firing on the multitude of visible targets besides harassing missions. Much enemy artillery fire was received and in the five-day duel the communications platoons and company wire details were kept extremely busy tracing breaks and repairing the vital telephone wires to gun positions, platoons and headquarters. The unusual terrain situation in the 3d Battalion for instance, made it necessary for the communications platoon, led by Lieutenant John F. Dwyer, to lay 5000 yards of wire to Company I from the battalion command post, 1200 yards of wire to Company K, 1200 yards to Company L, and 500 yards to Company M. The 1st Battalion communications platoon, led by Lieutenant John Hopkinson Jr., was doing the same thing.

It was rare when a line was in for more than an hour at a time. The only method to combat these constant breaks and keep telephone communications open the maximum time was to have linemen checking the wire steadily. When the break in the line was reported a man would go out to check it, or, if there were enough men, one would start out at either end of the wire. It was not unusual for them to find three or four places where the line had been cut by shell bursts or fragments before they met near the center, then check on their way back and find several breaks which had occurred since they had examined the wire a short while before. Casualties on the wire crews were high because the lines were necessarily laid along the few routes of approach which were in every case on the side of the ridges and exposed to enemy fire on both of the open flanks. The weary crews which policed the lines constantly, barrage or no, had dwindled down to one or two men. Both officers substituted and repaired lines personally. It was easier to lay new lines than repair the old, and quicker.

The 3d Battalion switchboard, which was operated in a building, received a direct hit with a mortar shell that, besides destroying communication, wrecked the building, wounded Lieutenant Dwyer, and buried ten men in the debris. Two nearby Company M mortarmen, Staff Sergeant Harold E. Kabriel and Private First Class Walter F. Walker, ran through the continuing barrage and began digging in the wreckage. They rescued eight of the buried men, but could not get the remaining two out in time to prevent suffocation.

The attack from Mt. Freddi north to where the 363d Infantry was ordered to hold up further forward movement had taken a toll. The committed rifle companies were down to fifty per cent of organization strength or less. The morning of 20 October saw 96 men in Company A, 78 in Company B, 98 in Company C, 70 in Company I, 40 in Company K, and 100 in Company L; this includes what replacements had been received as the attack progressed.

Following the receipt of an order to withdraw to positions as Division reserve, the 1st and 2d Battalions moved back the night of 23 October to assembly areas in the vicinity of Valle and Ca Parisi respectively, followed the next night by the 3d Battalion which assembled near Sadurano beneath the escarpment they had climbed eleven days earlier. The Regiment's positions on line were taken over by elements of the 133d Infantry, 34th Division.

Since moving to the sector east of the highway 8 October, the 363d Infantry had been faced by the German 65th Infantry Division, and during the eleven days which followed three other units were thrown in to aid them in attempting to stop the Regiment's breakthrough. These German units were the 142d Reconnaissance Battalion, committed on 10 October; the 71st Motorized Infantry (Panzergrenadier) Regiment of the 29th Armored Division, on 14 October; and on 17 October, two companies of the 400th Armored Reconnaissance Battalion.

The average strength of a German line company at this time was estimated at 40 men, which indicated that the units were in a battered condition as newly committed company strength was generally 60 to 80 men although organization strength was 150 men per company. Of the enemy units facing the 363d Infantry, the two companies of the 400th Armored Reconnaissance Battalion were in the best shape originally, having an estimated strength of 100 men, and 15 machine guns per company. The battalion was a separate unit under army command and carried the title of Protection Battalion (*Schutz Abteilung*) for Kesselring's headquarters, and although normally completely motorized, were used against the 363d Infantry as foot troops.

Because of hasty commitment of troops, poor visibility due to fog and the 363d Infantry's rapid advance on the east side of the highway, elements of the German 65th Division, which had intended to counterattack in the vicinity of Anconella west of the highway, could not complete their mission and the entire division received an order to withdraw. On 10 October the German units began pulling back from the large caves in the base of the escarpment. The roads along the bottom of the cliff had been the main supply route to the town of Livergnano, and traffic had been mainly by horse cart because motors generally drew American artillery fire. Casualties were high and no replacements had been received. However, on that day the 142d Reconnaissance Battalion, composed of four companies of 50 to 70 men each and an antitank platoon of three 75mm antitank guns, was trucked from Vado through Bologna to Pianoro and from there marched to the sector and took up hasty positions on top of the escarpment—pressure was too great to permit organized defenses. Two days later their three antitank guns had been knocked out and 91 of their men had been taken prisoner. At Ca delle Fate and Hill 368 they lost 50 more, and their entire 1st Company, with an estimated strength of 35 men, was surrounded and captured on Hill 510.



The first hot food most of these men saw in three weeks was when the Regiment was relieved.

This liquidation made it necessary for the enemy to bring up the 71st Regiment, also from Bologna, and throw it into the line near Querceto, positions which it was forced to vacate practically the minute it arrived there. It withdrew to C. Torre and set up 3d Battalion headquarters there—strength, 9th and 10th Companies combined, 25 to 30 men total. When the attack came the battalion commander, Captain Buschi, tried to escape, was mortally wounded and 33 men and another officer, slightly wounded, were taken prisoner. These men were mostly from assorted units of the 71st Regiment, having been collected there for reorganization. As C. Torre and C. Fiume had also been the depot for the 12th (heavy weapons) Company, a considerable amount of equipment was captured.

While the German 3d Battalion was being liquidated at C. Torre, the 2d Battalion, 71st Regiment, was losing men by the hour from artillery and small-arms fire. Due to constant harassing, casualties mounted every time the unit had to withdraw to new positions. Reserves were rounded up at the battalion command post and organized to replace the now missing 6th Company. The battalion mess officer, Lieutenant Thomas, was rushed from the kitchens in

Bologna in a captured jeep to take charge, reporting to his battalion commander and marching his men to the assigned sector during the night.

He had been studying the German field manuals, made the house in his area the headquarters, set up three outposts, posted a sentry outside his door, and went to sleep. Just before dawn he thought he heard a commotion outside. He put on his boots and stepped out. He couldn't find his sentry; hurried to the closest outpost, found it also vacated, turned around and walked into a couple of GIs who took him prisoner.

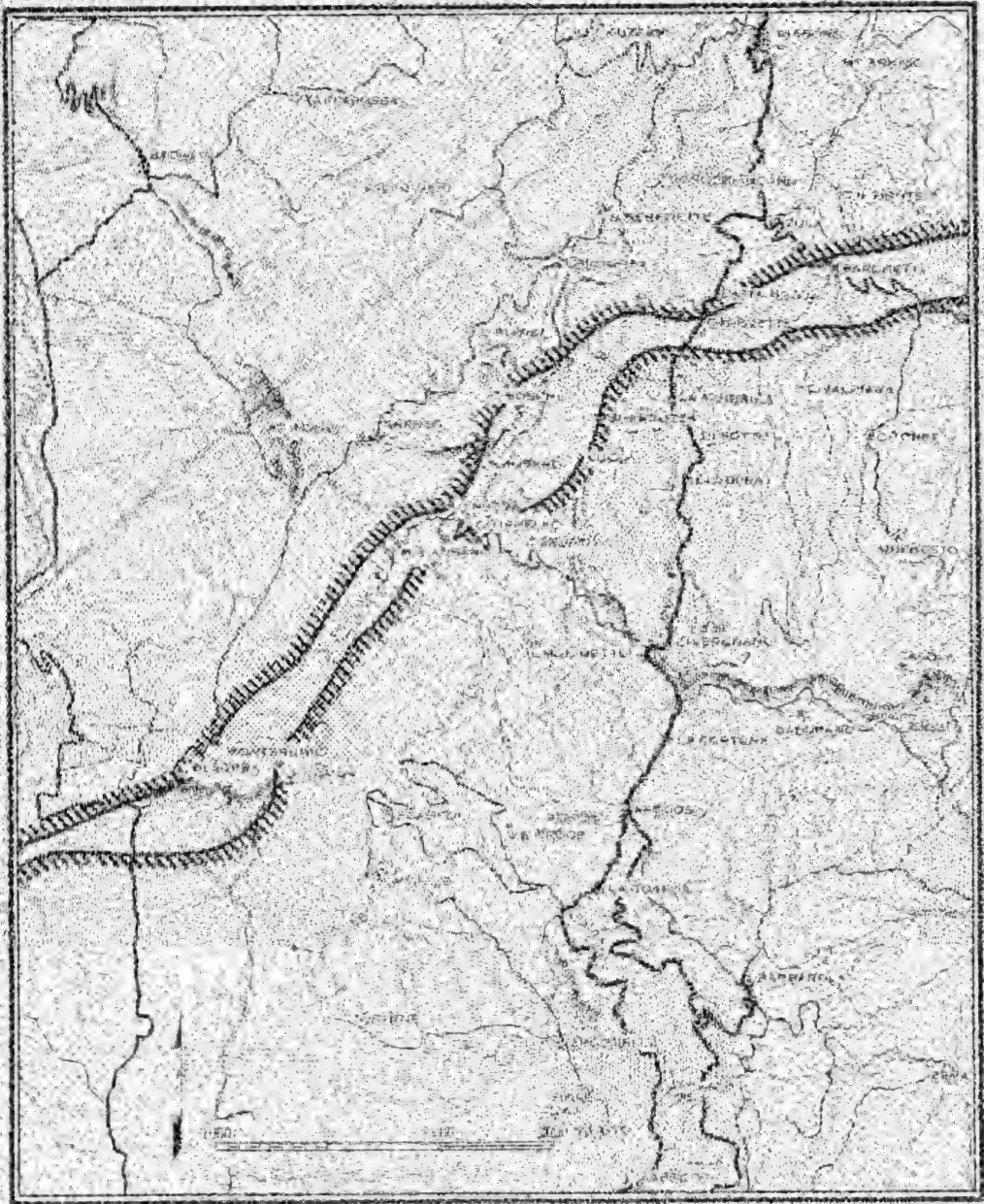
Exact figures for the enemy losses cannot be obtained. Losses of the 65th Division in casualties, prisoners, deserters and stragglers, however, can be estimated at sixty to eighty per cent. The 142d Reconnaissance Battalion lost about eighty-five per cent of its committed personnel, but had at least one mortar section of 11 men and a reserve platoon of 30 men intact. These both were in Bologna and did not see combat in the 363d Infantry sector. Many of the newly arrived enemy units had practically no losses and it is presumed that they withdrew to new and better positions as soon as 363d Infantry pressure eased off.

The 363d Infantry took 205 prisoners of war in the escarpment action, 10-19 October.

In their reserve positions below the escarpment the Regiment was getting a well deserved rest. For two weeks they had been on the go, under the mental and physical strain of combat, had received few hot meals because of the poor roadnet combined with rainy weather, and had no means of relaxation except an occasional cigarette. Now they were able to take showers, see moving pictures, drink beer. Rations of candy, toilet articles, and clean clothes were available—but the main thing was the chance to relax.

The supply road which was used by the 2d and 3d Battalions was in very bad condition due to the continued rains and excessive usage. Therefore, on 28 October the two battalions moved to more easily accessible areas near Barbarola. These positions were to be employed for counterattack in case of a German breakthrough; In addition they possessed more houses in which men could be billeted.

On the morning of 29 October a warning order was received by Lieutenant Colonel Harry M. Grizzard, acting Regimental commander, that the 363d Infantry would next occupy the defensive positions along Highway 65, relieving the 361st Infantry. No date was set for the relief but preliminary plans were completed. Instead orders were received two days later to contact the 135th Infantry of the 34th Division with the view of taking over their positions just to the west of the 361st Infantry highway area the night of 1 November.



The Winter Line.

CHAPTER 6

THROUGH THE WINTER

THE relief of the 135th Infantry in the defensive positions to the left of the highway went off smoothly and without casualties by 2200, 1 November, and for the first time since entering combat the 363d Infantry was not attacking.

Very little enemy fire fell in the area during the change; obviously the enemy never expected a relief of units that night. Once in the new positions (the 2d Battalion, 363d Infantry relieving the 3d Battalion, 135th Infantry; the 3d Battalion, 363d Infantry relieving the 2d Battalion, 135th Infantry; and the 1st Battalion, 363d Infantry replacing the 1st Battalion, 135th Infantry in reserve in Anconella) a plan was set up based on the information that the Regiment would be taken off the line about 20 November. The 1st and 3d Battalions would each be in reserve in Anconella for ten days, and, although the 2d Battalion, now commanded by Major George Kotchik, would remain on line, it would rotate one company to a Regimental rest camp set up in the town of Loiano every five days. Both the reserve position at Anconella and the rest camp at Loiano provided opportunities for showers, clothing exchange, and respite from combat. This plan was carried through.

The Regimental sector, approximately a mile in width to the west of the highway and Livergnano, was organized defensively with two battalions on line. The 3d Battalion on the left zone had Company L at the point of a narrowing area with Companies I and K disposed diagonally behind; the 2d Battalion had Companies E and G on line from right to left, with Company F in reserve. The heavy-weapons companies, H and M, supported their respective battalions from positions in the vicinity of Molinelli, while Cannon Company emplaced its guns near the settlement of Farne.

Running diagonally across the new Regimental front was the Savena River, normally a peaceful and well behaved stream about the size of a medium creek and capable of being waded easily. The last days of October and the first of November, however, were abnormally cloudy and rainy, and the Savena, swollen to twice its width and depth, became a raging torrent. Company E had its location across the river, and in the relief of elements of the 135th Infantry had to ford the swift stream, the men at chest depth holding onto an overhead rope as they crossed. Although sufficient numbers crossed the night of the relief to man the positions, it was three days later, when the depth and swiftness of the water had abated somewhat, that the entire company got across, and that all of Company L, 135th Infantry got back.

Supplies had to be transported to them the same way, and in the days which followed men of Company B of the 316th Engineers, in direct support of the Regiment during this operation, were quite ingenious in making the Savena River crossable. According to the amount of rain the stream would day by day range from a sweeping body of water 50 to 70 feet wide to a rapids with sharp rocks jutting above the surface, making foot-bridges impractical. The engineers stretched a cable across and fastened it to trees on each bank. A pulley rode the cable and was attached by a rope to the front end of a rubber boat, while other ropes went from each side of the boat to the shore for control.

In sixteen safe trips across the engineers ferried ammunition, food, water, and other essential supplies in addition to replacements, large quantities of barbed wire, tools, mines, shovels, and picks with which Company E, and later

other companies of the Regiment who replaced them in the outpost, built up their defenses.

Until 5 November, Company E held its tiny beachhead across the Savena near the town of La Piana which was in their hands. However, the enemy was in strength in the horseshoe of mountains surrounding the town on three sides, including the huge Monterumici overlooking the valley and houses, and from this vantage point directed observed fire by day and prepared concentrations by night on the positions and the outposts which they encircled. Too, the Germans operated combat patrols in the valley, especially at night, when they attacked the small garrisons time and time again with the object of pushing them back across the tumultuous river.

One of the company outposts occupied by a group of five—Sergeant James L. Woods, Corporal Gerald G. Rahmel, Private Kenneth J. Skillingstead, Private First Class Homer McCollister, and Private George Hozak—was located near a building in a draw, one side of which rose steeply away from the structure causing two sides of the house to be blind. After dark the Germans threw in a mortar barrage under cover of which an enemy combat patrol attacked. The defenders took up positions at the door and windows of the two exposed sides of the house and opened fire, meanwhile phoning the company command post for reinforcements. While the Germans worked their way in close enough to the house to throw grenades in the windows and the men inside tried to drive them off with grenades and rifle fire, Lieutenant Robert G. Benckart at the command post ran to his platoon and called for volunteers. The first men dressed, Private First Class Alfred Akers, Sergeant Ennis M. Beeson, Private First Class Jose Garcia, and Sergeant Richard T. Garretson, left with the lieutenant and within ten minutes were at the scene of the fight, pouring fire into the enemy patrol. As the reinforcements closed in throwing grenades, and the crossfire from the house continued, the Germans found that they had taken on more than they could handle. They withdrew as best they could in the bright moonlight. Lieutenant Benckart and his men remained the rest of the night at the outpost on guard.

The next night just before dusk the enemy laid a smoke screen over La Piana under which Private First Class Akers returned to the outpost with the relief. Hardly had he posted his men when the German attack came, preceded by mortar barrages which burst in the trees. With machine pistols they battered the screens, which had been put up to prevent grenades from being thrown in, right out of the windows. A grenade came through. Akers kicked it toward a hole in the floor. It exploded before it got there, deafening the men for a while but injuring no one. The fight continued. His gun burned up from rapid firing, Private Robert Hively helped reload automatic rifle magazines for Private George E. Swanton, Jr. who was firing from the window through which the grenade had come. Private Thomas P. Hylton fired all his carbine ammunition and began to help Hively load magazines, while Private First Class Otto Frederick fired his rifle through a crack in the door against which he had propped a chair to keep any German who might creep up from kicking it in and tossing another grenade in the room. Other members of the squad, Privates Manuel Perez and Charley T. Hubbard were blazing away at the ghostly figures of the enemy as they appeared and disappeared in the smoke blanketing everything outside the house.

The phone rang. Akers swore, left his opening in the wall, and picked up the receiver.

"How are you making out? Need any help?" It was Technical Sergeant Beryl H. Baker, platoon sergeant.

"We're doing fine; little warm though. No, we've got more help than we need here but I wish this phone was hung over on the wall so I could keep on firing. Say, how's chances of getting a little mortar fire. We can adjust from here now that the smoke's clearing," added Akers.

"Sure thing. First though, how have you got your men placed?" queried Baker.

Akers told him.

"Good. Now while I get the mortars on the wire shift Swanton and his BAR from window to window. Make 'em think you've got a couple of 'em." Baker rang off.

Akers was rearranging his fire power when the phone rang again. This time it was the first sergeant, George Reid.

"Listen, I've got the mortars on another line. You observe and direct the fire and I'll relay your orders to them. Okay? They're getting ready to fire the first round," said Reid. Then, after a few seconds pause, "There she goes, watch for it."

The mortar barrages, when they came in, not only caused casualties among the enemy but also furnished enough light to silhouette the Germans that the squad inside the house had little trouble in finding targets. Fire from the outside gradually diminished and finally ceased altogether.

No forward movement of any elements of the Division was contemplated at this time. In fact none was to be made until the spring offensive, six months away, which in two weeks' time eliminated the enemy in Italy and brought the Italian campaign to a successful close. Now, as had Company E, the remainder of the Regiment confined its activities against the enemy to the occupation of outpost positions where a constant vigil was kept, and vigorous night reconnaissance patrols. The firing of daytime observed fire missions was accomplished by the rifle company and heavy-weapons company mortars, plus Company D, 100th Chemical Mortar Battalion, attached to the regiment, in addition to Cannon Company and the 347th Field Artillery Battalion. Harassing missions were fired at night on trails and locations known to be used by the enemy either for resupply or as outpost positions.

The enemy, of course, was doing the same thing, and the days melted into each other with a steady diet of watching and firing artillery at the enemy all day and receiving some of his artillery in return; at night, going out on a patrol to probe and see whether this or that house was occupied by Germans, or to occupy an outpost position and beat off an enemy attempt to probe the 363d Infantry lines. Sleeping was done in between. Usually the positions were in houses, all of which were in a state of disrepair or demolition and got worse as time went by and the enemy continued to shell them at intervals, and were in at least platoon strength. From these platoon positions outposts were stationed to observe and guard against attack. Shifts were changed at night. Any movement at all in the Regimental sector had to be done after dark, or receive enemy artillery and reveal troop positions. As far back as Anconella, where the reserve battalion and the Regimental command post were located, daylight movement was kept to a minimum. The road to the 2d and 3d Battalions, which passed



This building was used as a message center. The reserve battalion remained in this town during part of the winter.

through Anconella, then forked, one branch going to La Valle, the other to Villa le Croce, had at the fork a road guard who saw that no one, regardless of rank or importance of mission, went any farther toward the front lines. The reason for this was not only that whoever traveled the road in daylight would draw artillery and long-range machine-gun fire, but also that the enemy would lay harassing missions on the road after dark and would suspect the strength with which the sector was held.

After dark the road was used to resupply the forward battalions. Jeeps and trailers of the respective companies formed into small convoys under the battalion S-4 (supply officer). They carried hot supper, cold rations or groceries from which breakfast and lunch the next day could be cooked (by those units fortunate enough to be in such a position that it was safe and practical to have their kitchens right with them) ammunition, new shoes for those who had worn theirs out, new socks for all, perhaps another machine gun to replace one which had been hit by shell fragments, batteries for the radios, and of course the eagerly awaited mail and the daily *Stars and Stripes*. After delivering the supplies and picking up the list of what was needed the following night, the convoy would return to the kitchen area near Service Company at Loiano on the highway.

Patrols were active from the night after the Regiment took over the sector, a minimum of one and at times as many as six going out in one evening. That night a patrol from Company L was sent out to Di Sopra, a small town boasting a church and located above the cliffs of Monterumici across the river from the outpost positions, to capture prisoners, but was unable to get across the swollen stream. Another from Company G scouted around M. S. Ansano, a small hill and settlement overlooked by both Monte Adone and Monte Castalazzo, and found that it was not occupied by the enemy. A third patrol from

Company E reconnoitered 200 yards from its farthest outpost and didn't find anything.

The following day, 3 November, the river subsided somewhat and after dark the platoon of Company L, 135th Infantry, which had not been able to cross the night of the relief, were safely transported out of the sector and rejoined their regiment.

While patrolling continued, elements of Company K moved in above the town of La Piana and dug in behind barbed wire the night of 5 November, while at the same time Company L relieved Company E during scattered mortar and artillery fire, thus taking over part of the 2d Battalion's sector. Company E marched back along the supply road past Anconella to Sabbioni where they entrucked for the Regimental rest camp in Loiano, closing in there by 1210, 6 November, for a five-day stay.

Company L immediately set up an ambush for any German patrol which ventured near the church on the hill above La Piana and operated it until the night of 10 November, when the battalion was relieved by the 1st Battalion, but no unwary German came near.

Artillery fire which the Regiment was directing on the enemy whenever he could be seen forced the Germans to lay smoke over the entire front at 1725, 8 November. Before it was laid, however, the enemy fired a concentration on the Cannon Company gun positions near Farne and succeeded in smashing the undercarriage of one gun, destroying the sight on a second, puncturing two tires on a third, knocking out a 1½-ton truck, burying two men and setting one of the dumps on fire. Using sandbags and sand, Sergeants Loyal E. Grunden and Sanford G. Sekse, Privates First Class Hubert Flerchinger, Sylvester M. Clark, Wayne E. Martin, Robert L. Fagg and Duard B. Connor beat out the fire which, beside endangering more ammunition stacked nearby, prevented the rescue of Privates First Class John W. Jones and Bernard Jarboe who were trapped in a caved-in dugout.

One new cannon, new tires and two new sights were immediately procured and within two hours the company could fire a complete complement of guns. Four days earlier the company had suffered eight casualties from German counter-battery fire which struck the right rear of one of the 1½-ton trucks. One man standing 200 yards away was killed by flying fragments and the truck was demolished. Later the same day another incoming round started a pile of ammunition blazing. Private First Class Flerchinger managed to extinguish it in spite of the continuing barrage. Cannon Company fired eighteen observed missions that day, and the next destroyed two houses known to contain enemy. On 6 November the maintenance truck was hit and a good portion of the equipment ruined. The truck itself was a total loss. Another vehicle some distance away had its motor and four tires riddled with shell fragments. On 9 November the company moved to alternate positions between Vaiano and Barbarola across the highway where they could continue effective fire on the enemy from a 180-degree different angle. Some little counterbattery fire was received but the closest round to any of the cannon was 50 yards away.

When Company E completed the five days at the Loiano rest camp it came back on line, relieving Company F on the extreme right of the Regimental area and taking over the positions at Ca dei Boschi, i Lagla, Hill 375, and Monte San Ansano the night of 9 November. Company F went to Loiano for five days, and upon its return relieved Company G at Le Fosse, Campuzzano, Hill

413, and i Balzi on the left of the 2d Battalion sector. The zone of the 3d Battalion was taken over by the 1st Battalion during the hours of darkness, 10 November. Company C occupied the former Company K positions at C. Ronca, Cotte, Hill 405 and Monte di Scascoli to the left of the area. Company B relieved Company I at La Tomba, Varosole, and the houses near Hill 405. Company A moved across the river to La Piana and relieved Company L. The 1st Battalion command post replaced the 3d Battalion command post at La Torre. Now across the Regimental front from west to east were: Companies C, B, A, G, and E.

Since the lines had stopped moving forward the number of prisoners taken had been small and, in direct proportion, so was the amount of enemy information available from this excellent source.

On 15 November seven members of the Regiment traveled to Montecatini rest center where a mass decoration-promotion program was held by Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark, Fifth Army commander, the next day. Frank A. Drazkowski, former Company B acting First Sergeant, and Clarence E. Ripley, platoon sergeant in Company A, received combat appointments as second lieutenants. These were the tenth and eleventh such appointments since the Regiment entered combat. Promoted from second to first lieutenant were: George H. Moore, Company C; Thomas E. Randall, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion; Jacquelin E. Samuels, Antitank Company; and John T. Sugrue, Cannon Company. Captain William B. Fulton was presented the Distinguished Service Cross at the same ceremony for extraordinary heroism in leading elements of his Company K up Monticelli ridge on 17 September.

On 17 November, Field Order No. 28, Headquarters 91st Division, was received, calling for the relief of the Regiment by elements of the 1st Armored Division on 21-22-23-24 November and plans were made for the change. On the first night scheduled for the relief, companies of the 14th Armored Infantry took the places of the 3d Battalion, 363d Infantry, as reserve in the town of Anconella, at which time the 3d Battalion moved out in trucks to Villanova, some twenty miles north of Florence on Highway 65, closing into the estate by 2230.

The first nine miles of this was negotiated under blackout conditions, difficult driving at best. The roads were bad, mud was four to six inches deep on the best of them in spite of constant work by the engineers to keep them cleaned off, and ruts were the rule rather than the exception. Farther down the highway the roads improved to some degree but incessant rain and later dense fog in the Futa Pass area more than balanced the better roads. In spite of the poor driving conditions the trip was made with no accidents or unusual events.

The following night the 1st Battalion was relieved by Companies A, B, and C of the 14th Armored Infantry, and moved directly to Montecatini where they arrived at dawn after an uncomfortable but uneventful eighty-mile ride. The 2d Battalion joined the 1st Battalion at the rest center by noon 24 November after being relieved of their positions on line the night of 23 November. The 3d Battalion closed into Montecatini from Villanova that same afternoon.

The Fifth Army rest center here was before the war one of the most frequented health resorts in Italy, boasting over 60,000 persons a year coming to visit the thermal baths and springs which have been in use since the fourteenth century. Previous rests were limited to reserve areas in the field, but this time

the Regiment was far from the front lines and in a good-sized city with facilities for a reasonable amount of comfort. The infantrymen, used to slit trenches or at best a liberated and usually tumbledown farmhouse, now enjoyed the luxury of sleeping on cots in nineteen different hotels and buildings. The rest period began officially on 24 November and was scheduled to last ten days—the first four strictly for relaxation and freshening up, the remaining days for a six-hour daily training and rehabilitation course after which the renewal of acquaintances, dancing, parties, movies, shopping and taking advantage of the hot baths continued.

Highlight of the rest period was the Thanksgiving Day celebration, held two days late on Saturday, 25 November, so that cooks would have time to prepare. Mess sergeants, cooks, and their helpers labored all day Friday and all Friday night in cleaning and roasting 4,375 pounds of turkey in the hotel ovens. Menus included, besides roast turkey: sage dressing, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, giblet gravy, creamed asparagus, fresh peas, creamed corn, sweet potatoes, walnut cake, apple, pumpkin, hot mince, or pineapple cream pies, nuts, hard candy, hot rolls and biscuits, coffee, tea or wine. Company D took over their hotel kitchen and had a banquet complete with tablecloths, introductions and speeches. Staff Sergeant Frank Carpenter, mess sergeant, made the arrangements. Headquarters Company 3d Battalion did the same with Staff Sergeant Lloyd Lackey, mess sergeant, officiating. Company H and Headquarters 2d Battalion shared the same dining room in their hotel, with a six-piece Italian orchestra furnishing music. Mess Sergeants Sheldon Allen and Theodore Tobin directed proceedings for the two companies. Service Company, with Technical Sergeant Edward Loesch, 56, oldest mess sergeant in the Regiment, in charge, was the only company to hold the big meal in the evening. Both Colonel Magill and Lieutenant Colonel Grizzard were guests of honor. Local Italians furnished music and entertainment. Generals Livesay and Williamson attended the Regimental Headquarters noon dinner prepared by Mess Sergeant Darrel Hanson.

On Sunday both Catholic chaplain Joseph A. Lenk and Protestant chaplain Tim W. Holbrook conducted the first service which the Regiment could attend as a unit since the 363d Infantry was in North Africa. In addition a Jewish chaplain from another unit conducted services during the week. All were well attended.

While the Regiment was in Montecatini, numerous passes were granted for visits to Florence, Rome, Leghorn and Pisa. This was the first time in several weeks that a Rome quota had been offered, and the first time that enlisted men were permitted to visit the Eternal City.

Besides entertainment and amusement, however, there was also serious training from 0800 to 1600 daily, emphasizing useful and practical subjects. The schedule included preparation and use of range cards, the making of overlays and sketches, field hygiene, German and American mines and booby traps, laying a hasty minefield, artillery fire-control methods, radio procedure and message writing, small unit tactics, tactics of the German Army, first aid, radio theory, switchboard operation, code practice, wire ties and splices, voice procedure, use of winter clothing, range firing, close-order drill, military discipline, marches, and physical training. This training period continued until 3 December.

Despite the pleasures of the rest center, the war had not been forgotten and plans were being studied for an attack whose objective was the city of Bologna, the Po Valley, and the end of the war in Italy. A quartering party was se



Lieergnago Rock. (Sketch by Radulovich)

to Villanova on 2 December to prepare for the Regiment's move from Montecatini, and by 1700, 4 December, the 363d Infantry had closed in. At this time the 361st Infantry was still in Montecatini and the 362d Infantry was on line in the defensive positions. The following day, 5 December, however, the 361st Infantry joined the 363d Infantry at Villanova.

The attack order, issued 5 December, advised that II Corps would attack in conjunction with IV Corps and British XIII Corps with the maximum of initial surprise and in such strength so as to seize the objectives assigned rapidly and hold them securely against the inevitable early strong enemy counterattacks, then continue to man successive positions until the subsequent objectives were secure. The Division, with 755th Tank Battalion, 804th Tank Destroyer Battalion, and Company A, 100th Chemical Mortar Battalion, attached, and one platoon of Battery A, 432d Antiaircraft Artillery under operational control, would attack on D plus 1 at H-hour (both as yet unnamed) with two regiments abreast, the 363d Infantry on the right, 362d Infantry on the left. While the 363d Infantry

would assemble near the town of La Guarda, then attack through the unit then holding the line to the immediate west of the highway towards Mt. Posigliano, the 362d Infantry on the left would attack simultaneously and abreast on the left, by-pass Mt. Adone to the west, then turn and attack it from the rear. Meanwhile, the 361st Infantry would move into the La Guarda assembly area as reserve when the 363d Infantry moved out.

Of the situation and plan to be carried out at some future date, the Division commander, General Livesay, said:

All available information indicates that the probable enemy reaction to any advance of our troops will be stubborn resistance at all points and immediate and violent counter-attack against any unit gaining ground. This threat will be particularly serious down the ridge along Highway 65. Complete surprise is difficult to obtain, but it is believed that the enemy will be surprised in the exact time and direction of our attack. It has been our custom to advance down ridges. In the contemplated advance we are advancing across ridges. It is believed that this in itself will be a surprise.

The hour of attack will be fixed at a sufficiently early hour to permit the gaining of our first objective with time to reorganize and get set prior to daylight for the inevitable counterattack. To accomplish this, careful and thorough planning and organization will be necessary. There must be no delay in moving from the line of departure. Units must advance with greater strength than would normally be used under other circumstances.

As soon as any part of a unit gains commanding ground or the objective it must be promptly reinforced in order to have sufficient strength to hold. Do not put too much trust in small units to advance and hold. Have sufficient leeway on the strong side to insure that the unit advances and holds against the inevitable counterattack. It is highly important, first, that we gain ground; second, that we hold all ground gained, and above all that we do not lose any of the ground now held. As a guarantee to the latter, troops now holding the front line will remain in position until such time as the security of our objective is assured.

Supports and reserves must be kept well forward to insure prompt support where needed. This will result in crowding the forward area, but it is a calculated risk we must take. Dispersal to the maximum extent permitted by control must be resorted to.

Plans must be worked out in detail for the careful coordination of all the fire of all weapons and the selection of targets for these weapons. Everything must be utilized that will assist the advance. All weapons must be used to their fullest capabilities.

While the regiments made plans for the attack and the repulsing of counter-attacks throughout the following two weeks, the training schedule continued. Three firing ranges were set up near where the 363d Infantry had cracked the Gothic Line three months earlier. Monticelli Range was used for all weapons, East Range primarily for small arms, and West Range for mortars, on days when the weather, which continued generally cloudy and cold, with an occasional light hail or snowfall, permitted. To supplement the existing entertainment program a regular all day moving picture schedule was set up under control of Lieutenant Sam L. McCorkle, Special Service Officer. Continuous showings were held every day in the large hospital ward tent set up as a theater and up-to-date suitable pictures were available, including "See Here, Pvt. Hargrove," "Standing Room Only," "To Have and Have Not," and "San Diego, I Love You" in addition to selected short subjects and training films.

The Regiment was alerted to relieve the 362d Infantry on line early on 19 December but this was changed and the 361st Infantry instead moved out of Villanova two night later and assumed control of the defensive sector, while the 362d Infantry joined the 363d Infantry at the palatial estate.

Christmas week the mail began to arrive by truckloads. An evergreen tree was cut and trimmed with colored lights; a sign read "Merry Christmas from



Christmas in Loiano

A P O S T W A R A N E C D O T E

IT was two days before Christmas in 1944. Up near the rugged 5th Army front I was bouncing over the shell-torn, slushy road in my jeep, looking for news for Stars and Stripes. Presently I came to rubble heaps which were what was left of the little mountain village of Loiano. For months Loiano had been close to the fighting line, choked with pathetic refugees who knew the horror of daily shellings and went hungry unless some friendly soldier passed along his mess-kit scrapings. It was not a town where people smiled.

But this day I was surprised to find happiness in Loiano. Children were smiling as they played in the rubble, and mothers smiled as they gossiped in the sodden streets. Even the stubbled faces of weary infantrymen had a brighter expression while they waited to go back into the line. Suddenly I discovered why.

Out of the door of the battered cathedral stepped Santa Claus. His masked cheeks were rosy, his beard properly white and flowing. He wore a tasseled crimson hat and a white suit with a red sash. And from his shoulders hung a plump bag.

"*Papa Natale!*" cried the kids, swarming around. Like the Pied Piper, Santa Claus walked through the scarred streets of Loiano. He had chocolate or gum for each child and a kiss for each baby in arms. When his bag was empty and his beard had been fingered by the last wide-eyed *bambino*, Santa disappeared into the cathedral.

I followed, and found Santa Claus taking off a white combat parka. He was a dark-haired American infantryman, Vincent Post, a staff sergeant who, before the war, operated a bread-slicing machine in Clarksburg, West Virginia. It seems that someone he had never met—a girl named Frances Jensen in far-away Corvallis, Oregon—had wondered what kind of Christmas lay ahead for the children of Italy, and had bought three Santa Claus costumes and mailed them to an Army captain, who gave one to Post.

Well, it takes courage for an infantry sergeant to risk the ridicule of hard-boiled comrades by playing Santa. But Post had it, and when Christmas approached, the doughboys turned out to be not so hard-boiled after all. They chipped in not only their PX rations but also their precious Christmas boxes from home—said they didn't want them anyway.

At first, when Santa Post walked abroad during Christmas week, Loiano's children were suspicious and drew back, having forgotten, or never known, a kindly Christmas and *Papa Natale*. Soon an adventurous youngster kissed Santa's cheek; then all was well. The priest found a bell for Santa to carry, because the children said the tiny bells on his suit jingled too softly. Mothers taught the children to sing carols as they trailed behind their wonderful friend. Post has fingers missing on one hand and he forgot to wear a glove his first day in the street; after that, some of the kids would shyly feel his gloved hand for the lost fingers and, reassured, tell each other happily that it was *Papa Natale* all right.

Around Christmastime I think I shall always remember a weary Italian mother who spoke to me as Santa Claus Post disappeared into the cathedral.

"*Signor*, it is a miracle," she said. "The children of Loiano smile again."

—STAN SWINTON.

(Reprinted by special permission of the *Saturday Evening Post*, copyright 1946 by Curtis Publishing Company.) Stan Swinton was a combat correspondent for *Stars and Stripes*.



Staff Sgt. Vincent L. Font, who played Santa Claus for Italian children.

the men and officers of the 363d Infantry. Holly wreaths decorated windows, tents, and mantelpieces. A loudspeaker amplified Christmas hymns and carols and a Christmas formation was planned for 23 December. But an order for the Regiment to move up to La Guarda the afternoon of the day before Christmas and attack through the 361st Infantry caused all Christmas activities not to be cancelled, but to be moved up twenty-four hours. The formation was cancelled. Major Floyd V. Pinnick, Regimental S-4 (operations) officer, assumed command of the 3d Battalion the same day when Lieutenant Colonel Glen C. Long was evacuated to the hospital because of serious illness. Lieutenant Eugene W. Shaw, assistant S-3, took over operations.

Christmas High Mass for the men of Catholic faith was held at midnight 23-24 December in the chapel at Villanova. A choir trained by Technician

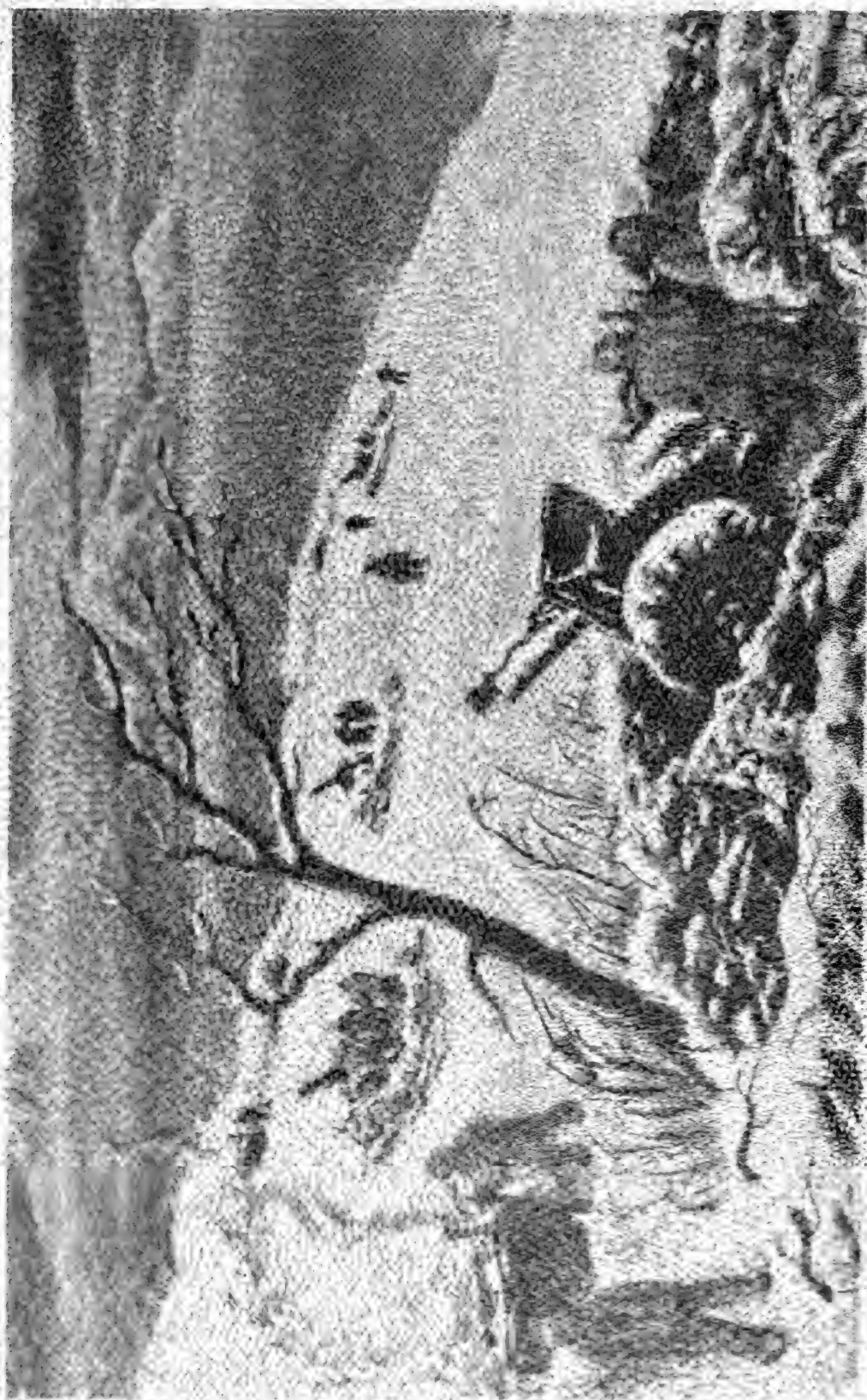


Christmas mail and presents poured in by the truckload. There was a full mailbag for each man in the hospital.

Fifth Grade Norman P. Krohn assisted Chaplain Joseph A. Lenk, singing the mass and Christmas hymns. Three additional masses were celebrated the next morning, Sunday, 24 December at 0900, 1000, and 1100. Three services for men of Protestant faith were held Sunday morning at the same times in one of the ballrooms of the mansion, a sermon by Chaplain Tim W. Holbrook being followed by Christmas hymns and carol singing. Attendance at all services was excellent.

The traditional holiday dinner of golden brown roast turkey with chestnut dressing and giblet gravy, creamed mashed potatoes, candied yams, buttered green beans, and peas, hot mince pie, fruit cake, coffee, chocolate, wine and cigars was served at noon the day before Christmas. Prior to this the personnel, intelligence, operations, and supply sections had moved up the highway to La Guardia and Loiano for reconnaissance and planning for the move and quartering of the Regiment. Reconnaissance for the attack had been carried on by the battalion commanders and their staffs and company commanders since the receipt of the first attack order. In fact a group of men had been moved forward to Loiano at that time under Lieutenant Fabian E. Allen for the purpose of gathering more information of the enemy for the Regiment's future attack. Every patrol sent out by the Division in the last two weeks in December was made up entirely or in part of 363d Infantrymen.

Before the remainder of the Regiment could move out the afternoon of 24



Artillery positions above Laisano. (Sketch by Rodulovich)

December, Lieutenant Shaw called back from Division headquarters, then located south of Loiano, that a change in plans had been made and the the 363d Infantry was to remain at Villanova pending the issue of a new Division field order. This was good news to the squads, platoons and companies getting ready to board trucks for the cold forty-mile ride to the lines, so they took off their packs and prepared to celebrate a second holiday on Christmas Day. The festivities were repeated.

This was the time when the bold and swift Ardennes offensive, or Battle of the Bulge, was at its peak in Luxembourg and Belgium. Blessed with poor flying weather which grounded the Allied air arms, Von Rundstedt's 23 divisions had driven the 50-mile deep wedge into the American lines and were well on their way to separate the American First and Third Armies, cutting off their supply lines and destroying one or both of them. At the same time the enemy launched an offensive in the Serchio Valley near the western coast of Italy then defended by elements of the 92d Infantry Division, and penetrated six miles. Too, the British had been moving troops out of Italy to the scene of civil war in Greece and should a German offensive in Italy comparable to the force of the Ardennes offensive be undertaken, a shrewd disposition of Allied troops would have to be made to prevent its unlimited success. These factors one on top of the other created a tense situation in Italy and undoubtedly figured largely in the delay of the U. S. Fifth and British Eighth Armies' offensive to finish the Italian Campaign in late December and early January.

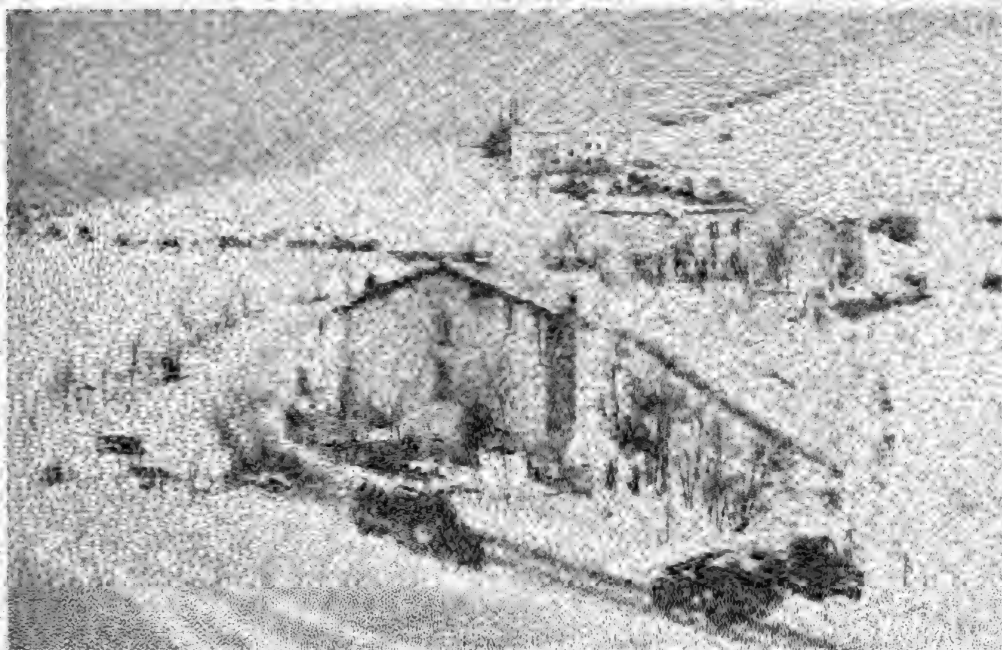
Two days after Christmas the expected field order was received at Villanova instructing the 363d Infantry to reassume control of the sector it had vacated to the 1st Armored Division's Combat Command A, and again occupy defensive positions. With the 347th Field Artillery Battalion, Company C, 316th Engineer Battalion, and Company B, 100th Chemical Mortar Battalion in direct support and the 91st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (already on line) attached, the 363d Infantry moved from Villanova up Highway 65 where well-forward supply dumps and installations including field hospitals told the story of the intended all-out attack which was not yet to be.

The night of 27 December the 3d Battalion relieved the 6th Armored Infantry and the 81st Reconnaissance Squadron, immediately beginning to plan defensive fires. The 2d Battalion moved to Anconella prepared to execute the counterattack plans which had been readied, while the 1st Battalion, initially in positions near Roncastaldo below Loiano made plans to move to the vicinity of Monzuno on the west of the Regimental sector and relieve the 91st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron which had been holding that zone. This later move was accomplished the night of 29 December, at which time the 91st Reconnaissance Squadron assembled at Monzuno and prepared counterattack plans for use in the event of an enemy penetration between the rocky Monterumici and the town of Vado in the Setta River streambed a mile west. Other counterattack plans were based upon an attempted enemy breakthrough between Monterumici and Monte Adone, or along Highway 65. Meanwhile the 361st Infantry continued its defensive mission in the sector to the east of the 363d Infantry, and the 362d Infantry remained at Villanova as II Corps reserve. The 6th South African Armored Division then attached to the American IV Corps occupied the defensive sector to the west of the 363d Infantry. All elements of the Regiment were in position by 0010, 28 December, the only incident of the relief was that it



Observers reinforce their dugout with rocks and sandbags (top). These mortars (bottom) helped to put a ring of steel around the outposts, in addition to firing harassing missions.





Highway 65 blanketed by snow. The engineers did yeoman work in keeping this vital route open to heavy traffic.

was carried out under light enemy machine-gun and mortar fire which caused no casualties. Control of the area was assumed at 0700, 28 December, as ordered.

Again the daytime observation and engagement of the enemy by mortar, cannon, and artillery, and the nighttime patrolling were resumed. Supplies continued to be brought up only at night and all daylight movement was kept at a minimum. The supply crews took about two hours for a round trip to one of the outposts and on the way encountered obstacles of every sort ranging from enemy patrol actions to snow and ice. In many places the paths narrowed to a few feet separating a steep embankment from a sharp cliff, and a slip there meant that either a man or his load of K rations or water, perhaps both, would go over the cliff. Machine guns sprayed most of the paths and when the moon was bright a supply crew felt very much like a bare target in plain view of the enemy. The same when there was snow on the ground, and there usually was at that time of the year. To camouflage themselves both supply parties and members of the outposts wore white parkas and as there weren't enough of these to go around, even white mattress covers with face holes cut out of them. Supply groups looked like heavily burdened ghosts from another world as they moved soundlessly, slowly along in single file. The forward observation groups would pick them up early in their approach, especially if they were forced to pass something black like a long hedge or a row of trees, and keep them under observation until they hit the river bed. Here they waded across in freezing temperature guided by an engineer footpath and up the other side to the outposts.

Contact was maintained each night with the units to the left and right by the nearest company, and internal contact was kept between companies. Usually this was done by patrol. Company K, however, in order to keep in touch with the Natal Mounted Rifles of the 6th South African Armored Division on their



The town of Monghidoro was another landmark with its shattered steeples. Montepiano is in the center left.

left, stretched a telephone wire across the river. The patrol from the Rifles or Company K would make their way to the wire, attach the hand-powered telephone set brought along for the purpose, and wait until the patrol on the opposite side arrived and attached their set to the wire. This at least saved the patrols from wading the cold river.

An unusual application of smoke for screening purposes at night by the enemy was forced by the moonlight reflected brilliantly off the white snow. This, coupled with the "artificial moonlight" of the Allies—many strong searchlights directed over the enemy's lines at an angle until the entire front looked like a gigantic Hollywood premiere—made the landscape as bright as day and the use of smoke at night quite logical. The artificial moonlight, of course, could be turned off when it interfered with patrol or supply activity.

The 3d Battalion was again having some difficulty supplying the outposts across the Savena River at La Tomba, Varosole, and La Piana because the crossing site had been zeroed in by the German mortars and the banks of the river were steep. It took a long time for the men to hand the rations down the bank to others then climb down, cross the river, and hand the rations up on the other bank. Therefore, one night Company C, 316th Engineer Battalion, had six men waiting at Scasoli who were led up to the crossing site by guides, presenting an eerie picture against the night as they moved down the trail in their white makeshift camouflage suits loaded with picks and shovels to level down the banks near Company L's lifeline across the Savena.

While enemy patrolling had been active up to date, very little probing activity was felt the nights of 30 and 31 December, and the Germans had a reason for it. Only two enemy patrols were seen and these made no effort at concealment but were careful to do their patrolling in places where they couldn't be engaged by artillery. The night of 30 December the Germans had quietly set up a loud-speaker in front of the Company B positions. At about 2100 with a martial air as background, a voice in English welcomed the 363d Infantry back to the line—by name.

"... we know you've been through a lot and have done good work. Tonight you can take it easy and we'll play you a little music," the voice continued, and put on three recordings the only one of which was familiar was "You Can't Stop Me From Dreaming." After several lame attempts at jokes the voice wished the 363d Infantry "a lot of luck—you'll need it in 1945," and promised to broadcast the next night at 2100 and 2400 to celebrate the new year.

Company B sat there and listened to the program. They want to celebrate, huh? Okay, we'll help 'em. Lieutenant Charles Murphy got several of his men together in the corner of the platoon command post and outlined a plan for a little ambush party to be held at 2100, New Year's Eve, in no-man's-land. The broadcast the second night was a half hour late, but from the same positions as the night before. "Men of the 363d———," the voice began. Hand grenades exploded around the loud-speaker thrown by Murphy and his ambush party, and the voice ceased. At the same time mortar barrages attempted to box the group who were doing the broadcasting in and an eight-man patrol moved to outflank them but the enemy got into a draw behind their location and escaped. Remarkd Private Herbert Vaughn of Company C, "Heck, if they hadn't thrown hand grenades we'd have had music all night."

Although the music was spoiled there was certainly enough fireworks to please the most demanding of observers. Promptly at midnight, when the new year began, the Germans started to fire all small-arms weapons in their possession up in the air, presenting the Allies with a startling and beautiful pattern of red and orange tracers against the black sky and also with the exact position of every machine gun and rifle that fired. A few minutes later while the display was still sketching designs in the night, the 347th Field Artillery opened fire at the revealed positions of the Germans and not up at the sky. With the 91st Division having what the enemy probably considered a perverted sense of humor as evident by their directing fireworks at them, the celebration quieted down somewhat, but not altogether. Company C also had an ambush patrol out hoping to bring back some prisoners.

As prisoners were extremely scarce—none had been taken by the 363d Infantry since 24 October—and the Division G-2 (Intelligence Officer) Lieutenant Colonel Elbert O. Foster, had called Regiment earlier in the afternoon saying that a II Corps order had been issued directing that two prisoners a week would be taken by each regiment on line, Company C decided that this would be a good time to work another ambush on Hill 333. This hill was in front of the Company C outposts and sometimes was occupied during the night by German patrols out for information. The company had laid ambushes there before but had always come in empty-handed although some stiff fire fights sometimes developed and several of the German patrols had been shot up.

While the New Year's celebration was still going on the Company C ambush patrol in command of Staff Sergeant Lloyd Chandler, with two members of the Ammunition and Pioneer Platoon, Sergeant Anthony J. Rositano and Private First Class Harold C. Devine, moved stealthily up the trail on Hill 333, loaded with antipersonnel mines and wire to booby-trap the hill. Quietly they set their trap, strung their trip wires, and laid down to wait. Soon there was a rustling of the naked bushes and an explosion. The ambush crew opened fire simultaneously with rifles, automatic rifles, and a submachine gun. One German was killed. The others took cover and failed to return fire. When ordered to surrender they gave no answer. Chandler with two of his men, Private First Class



Highway 65 and the Promised Land (Sketch by Capt. Edward Reep)

Joshway Curtis, rifle grenadier and squad leader and Sergeant Joseph Clark, rifleman and squad leader, took off, climbed to an elevated position above the enemy, and while others in the group, Private William Storz, automatic rifleman, Private Robert Adams, automatic rifleman, Private First Class Rice Baker, submachine gunner, and Sergeant Edward Sherrick, rifleman and squad leader, remained to throw protective fire, the three opened up with a burst of fire clearing up any further doubts and convincing the Germans that a meek surrender was the best way out of the spot in which they found themselves. The three remaining Germans of the patrol came out bare-headed with their hands up. One of them was wounded.

Interrogation showed that the group of four Germans had started out of their rear area at 2200 with the mission of investigating a narrow valley near Hill 333 within 150 yards of one of the American outposts to look for evidence of American activity. Members of a reserve unit, they had lived as well or better than in front-line units although they had to rotate between living in two houses and in dugouts and foxholes to share the discomforts. Rations were delivered cold but could be heated in fires permitted in the dugouts. They did receive shelling occasionally and were rigidly restricted to their positions during daylight hours. They were members of the 1st Company, 12th Regiment, 4th Parachute Division, which was near La Braine and had specific orders to report Allied positions and activity at Hill 410, the house on Hill 333 and the mill and houses near Mt. di Scascoli. The patrol used the regular road to C. Furcoli where they were met by a guide from the 2d Company who led them through a minefield immediately east of the town. From here they followed a mule trail to the house on Hill 333, climbed into the C. Segalara streambed and followed it southeast to the stream junction where they tripped Company C's booby trap. (No one was hurt but shortly after they received small-arms fire which wounded one man who died thirty minutes later.) The remaining three, seeing no chance of escape, decided not to return the fire and stayed under cover until the burst of fire from Sergeant Chandler above them forced them to give themselves up.

Further information from the prisoners revealed that the 1st Battalion of their 12th Regiment was on line from C. di Bocchino along the high ground which included Monterumici to Le Mandrie to the northeast, 2d Company on the southwest, 3d Company on the northeast, 1st Company in reserve at Le Braine. More paratroops of an unknown unit were to the northeast of the 1st Battalion.

The day of 1 January 1945 saw the 2d Battalion less Company F and one platoon of Company H move from the reserve position in the town of Anconella to the vicinity of Monzuno closing into the assembly area at 2220. Here they were to begin work on a second defense called the Intermediate Line which included Monte Venere to the southwest. Company F and the platoon of Company H which had been outposting Farne not far from Anconella were relieved by a platoon of the 91st Reconnaissance Troop the same evening and remained in Anconella as reserve, attached to the 3d Battalion.

Two more prisoners were taken by Company K when they walked into one of the outposts near i Balzi, to bring the total of prisoners up to five in two days or two and a half weeks' quota. That same night a patrol from Company L going along the path from La Tomba toward Hill 407 on Monterumici came across two dead Germans killed by small-arms fire laying on the trail.

It was difficult to tell how long they had been dead because the cold weather retarded decomposition. Two sacks of bread and four or five *Schü* mines were nearby; papers taken from the bodies showed that they had been members of the 9th Company, 36th Panzergrenadier *Schützstaffel* Regiment, 16th (SS) Panzergrenadier (*Reichsführer*) Division.

Until the nights of 23-24-25 January, when the Regiment was relieved, the artillery duels and patrol clashes continued while existing positions were improved with the laying of additional minefields, barbed-wire entanglements, sandbagging houses and slit trenches, putting duckboards in the bottom of the latter to keep the occupants from standing and lying in icy water. Work on the Intermediate Line also continued with many of the emplacements being finished by the 2d Battalion before the remainder of the Regiment moved back to help them. During the entire month the ground was covered with a blanket of snow to a depth of six to eight inches which in some places drifted to depths of six to eight feet.

As camouflage everyone wore some type of white clothing, be it parkas or mattress covers, and even vehicles donned white paint for the snow season. On occasion skis were used and one company delivered rations and ammunition to its outposts on a home-made toboggan. Bulldozers kept the rear supply routes open throughout as the frequent snowfalls attempted to close them.

On the night of 4 January Company F, previously in reserve, with one platoon of Company H, relieved the positions across the Savena River occupied by Company L which marched back to Anconella and assumed the reserve mission. The platoon of heavy machine guns which had been attached to Company F reverted back to 2d Battalion control. Two nights later, just before midnight, an enemy patrol of eight to ten men approached the La Piana outpost of Company F and opened fire. Visibility at the time was about 15 yards—hardly the optimum for rifle accuracy. The outpost commander called Company B, 100th Chemical Mortar Battalion, attached to the Regiment and firing supporting missions from Molinelli, and requested 4.2-inch and 60mm mortar fire within 100 yards of his position. A repetition of three white phosphorus shells every few minutes fired in rapid succession illuminated the outpost area sufficiently for the Company F men to spot the enemy in the light and drive them off with effectively aimed rifle fire.

Operations instructions were issued to the battalions and the attached 91st Reconnaissance Squadron on 8 January, placing Troop A in the outpost positions held by the platoon of Company C at Hills 315 and 319, with the Company C platoon moving into a support position. The 1st Battalion was to begin preparations for defenses on its sector of the Regimental reserve line and Companies B and C were to have counterattack plans ready. One troop of the 91st Reconnaissance Squadron was ordered to occupy the right sector of the Regimental reserve line on Colonel Magill's order, while a third was to replace Company F, now attached to the 3d Battalion, as 2d Battalion reserve and be included in the counterattack plans in the event that the occupation of the Mt. Venere Intermediate Line was ordered. A further order from II Corps was phoned from Division that prisoner raids would be increased. Up to company strength was to be used if necessary and special allotments of ammunition would be made available to support them. There would be one raid in each regimental sector each week for the sole purpose of taking prisoners. Plans would be started at once.

A red flare at 1805 the following night gave notice to friendly outposts that the first large raiding party ordered by Corps had left La Valle for Di Sotto above Monterumici. An elaborate fire plan for the 19-man patrol had been worked out by which four checkpoints were established along the route to the German-held town. Mortar barrages previously registered on these points were called for and raised by members of the raiding party themselves who laid telephone wire as they went. For instance, a barrage was placed on Check Point 1 as the patrol approached; then as they neared the impact area they telephoned back and lifted it along the trail to Check Point 2. When they approached Check Point 2 they raised the fire to Check Point 3. Besides this, the mortars had been registered in on several parts of the town and preparations were made that these were to be fired on call in case the patrol got into trouble. Further concentrations were to follow the patrol out of town on their way back to prevent an aroused enemy garrison from following.

Preceded by the rolling barrage and dropping off men to act as connecting links and guard the wire as it went, the raiding party approached Di Sotto by 2300, divided into three groups and closed in on the town. Covered by the remainder of his group, Private First Class Horace D. Brigham, a gunner in the 91st Reconnaissance Troop, scouted up one of the snow-covered shell-torn streets. Not a sound could be heard. Even footsteps were muffled by the snow. He rounded a corner and ran headlong into an unsuspecting German coming the other way.

"Halt!" Brigham shouted, and squeezed the trigger on his submachine gun. The gun failed to fire, its mechanism frozen, so he threw it at the German who ducked back into a dark corner of the building. Brigham went after him, recovering the weapon as he did so. Two more Germans stuck their heads out of the building and inquired about the noise. Brigham, unable to fire his gun, struck fast with the butt of the weapon, then kicked. The German toppled back and lay still while the second attacked.

They grappled for several minutes and in the process the German bit Brigham's thumb, a tactic which so angered the doughboy that he beat the enemy's head against a nearby beam until the German ceased to resist. Alerted by the first German, more of the enemy in the house opened up from the darkness of the building as the remainder of the group, also attracted by the noise, joined the exhausted Brigham. Several other enemy guns opened fire with the American group immediately calling down the prepared mortar concentrations, then withdrawing to be clear of them when they came in. Every gun in the group was frozen tight and not a shot could be fired. Brigham was so tired from his fight with the enemy that he was willing just to lie there, but the others forced him back with them.

The barrages came in and were so placed that they knocked out at least two and probably three of the German guns before the patrol left, the barrages following them as planned. The patrol brought no prisoners back and suffered no casualties, except for Brigham's bitten thumb.

To aid in influencing enemy desertions copies of safe conduct passes and the Psychological Warfare Branch's German language newspaper *Frontpost* which told the enemy what was going on in the homeland sans German propaganda, were fired in shells across the lines by Cannon Company and the supporting artillery. In addition to this three propaganda broadcasts were transmitted over loud-speakers during the month. These were slanted toward the



Operation "Soapsuds."

dissatisfied German soldier, telling of the excellent facilities for showers, comfort and food on the Allied side of the lines. In so many words it promised him safety, hot coffee, doughnuts and showers—all real luxuries to a soldier in contrast to the cold trench and miserable front-line conditions in which he was existing. In truth, all these things could be given him within five minutes of his capture because the 1st Battalion had established a rest center within walking distance of the front complete with hot showers, clothing exchanges, movies, a library and writing room at the rear command post in Monzuno.

The building housing the CP was shell-torn and half-destroyed, with gaping holes in the ceiling, in the floors and in the walls through which the snow came. It had glassless window frames, no heating system, and no furniture. The 1st Battalion men patched the holes, put cellophane over the windows, got some pot-bellied stoves from Service Company, found a few chairs and tables. They got pocket-sized books from Special Services and writing paper from Jerry Kriebel, the Red Cross Field Director with the Regiment, and dubbed the place "The 1st Battalion One Day Rest Center."

The first indication that the 363d was to come off the line was through information received on 16 January that the Regiment would go back to Villanova for six days then to the rest center at Montecatini for seven days, but later word

put the Regiment in the vicinity of Monghidoro and Piamaggio instead of Villanova for the first six days to work on defenses for the Intermediate Line followed by seven days at Montecatini then six days at Villanova.

After dark on the 23d the 2d Battalion, less Company F, which had been working on the Intermediate Line in the vicinity of Farne was relieved by the 1st Battalion (less Company A,) of the 350th Infantry, 88th Division, and moved to positions at Cedrechia by midnight. At the same time the 3d Battalion (with Company F attached) was relieved by the 3d Battalion (with Company A attached) 350th Infantry, of positions on the right half of the Regimental sector. Company F reverted to 2d Battalion control when the 3d Battalion reached their assembly area by 2330. Control of the sector passed to the 88th Division officially at 0110, 24 January, and the 1st Battalion, 363d Infantry, was relieved by the 2d Battalion, 350th Infantry, the night of 24 January.

As relieved, the 363d Infantry battalions moved into assembly areas along the lateral road running west from Ca del Costa and Highway 65 past Montepiano to Farne. Here they spent the six days digging gun and personnel emplacements, laying barbed wire and planting mines as part of the Intermediate Line before closing into Montecatini by 1500, 31 January. There was no training at Montecatini.

Lieutenant General Lucian K. Truscott, who had assumed command of the Fifth Army when Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark became 15th Army Group commander, made three awards of the Distinguished Service Cross, two of the Silver Star Medal, and three of the Legion of Merit to members of the 363d Infantry at a Regimental mass-decoration ceremony. Lieutenant Russell M. McKelvey, newly commissioned Company F platoon leader, received the Distinguished Service Cross for voluntarily leading a platoon against the pill-boxes of Monticelli Ridge in September. He was then first sergeant of Company F.

Private Howard E. Weaver, also of Company F, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for taking charge of the squad, personally knocking out two enemy machine guns and three snipers, taking five prisoners and capturing the company objective, a house near Montepiano, in October. At that time Weaver had been in combat a total of four days.

An excess-in-grade cook and barber in the first few days of July when the Regiment was attacking Mt. Vaso, Technician Fifth Grade William A. Montooth received the Distinguished Service Cross for taking over as an observer in a Company L observation post, personally killing 19 Germans, protecting the company's flank during two counterattacks, covering the withdrawal of the unit from the hill then aiding in the evacuation of the many wounded. This ceremony was held on 2 February 1945.

The Silver Star Medal was presented to Private First Class Marvin D. England, Company F scout, who wiped out two enemy machine-gun emplacements singlehandedly, enabling his platoon to take its objective on Montepiano, and to Sergeant Raymond R. Crawford, Company K squad leader, who was one of the first to reach the summit of Monticelli Ridge on 17 September. The Legion of Merit was awarded to Technical Sergeant Edward Loesch, Service Company mess sergeant, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services from 4 July to 9 September 1944; to Staff Sergeant Francis A. Riebe, Regimental message center chief, who acted in the capacity

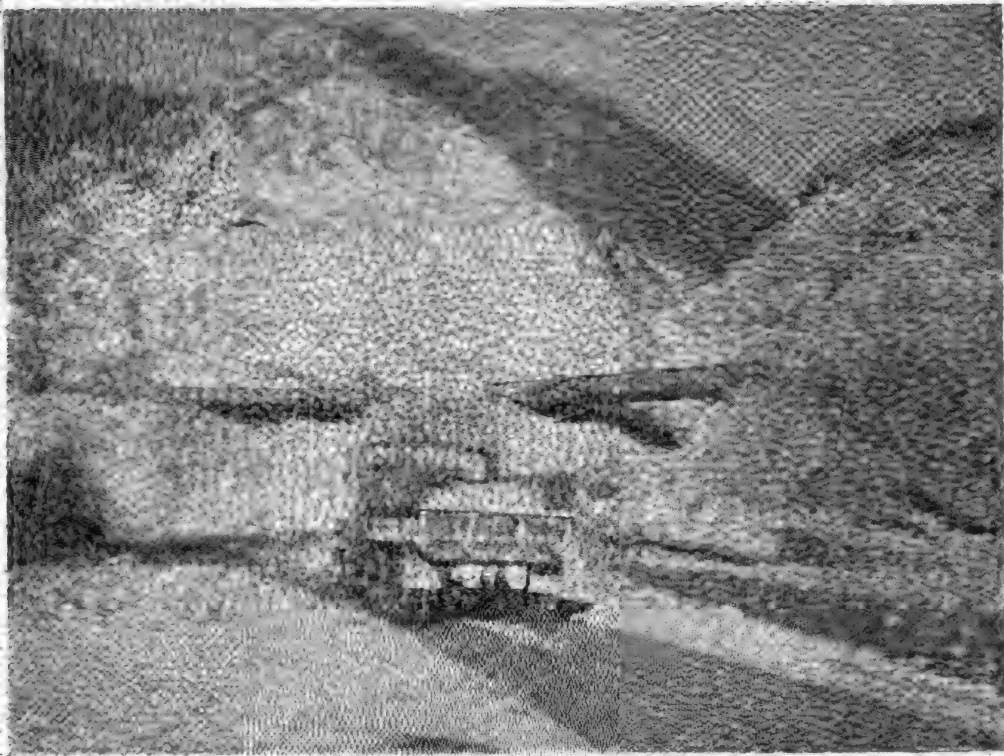
of assistant Regimental communications officer from 4 July to 2 August 1944; and to Sergeant Raymond A. Ferguson, Headquarters 1st Battalion, who took charge of all duties in the battalion pertaining to wire communications from 6 July to 28 July 1944 after the communications officer was evacuated.

A quartering party left Montecatini on 5 February to prepare for the Regiment's move to the town and vicinity of Gagliano between Villanova and Scarperia the following two days for a six-day period of training. While the training was still in progress, a reconnaissance party consisting of the S-3 (operations), Lieutenant Eugene W. Shaw; S-4 (supply) Major Edward L. Beauchamp; Captain Joseph P. Steig, Regimental communications officer; the 1st, 2d and 3d Battalion communications officers; one officer from each of the separate companies plus Company C, 316th Engineers, and Company C, 316th Medical Battalion; and Captain Robert F. Muller, Headquarters Company commandant, left for the command post of the 133d Infantry, 34th Division, which was to be relieved by the 363d Infantry of its positions to the east of Monte Belmonte and the escarpment in the Idice River valley. Advance parties went forward from Regimental headquarters and 2d and 3d Battalions on 11 February to arrange for the relief the night 12-13 February; the 1st Battalion and separate company advance parties moved up from Gagliano for the relief the night of 13-14 February.

The territory into which the 363d Infantry now moved was bisected by the Idice River, a shallow, winding stream flowing north past the east side of Mt. delle Formiche, and in some places as wide as 100 yards. To get to the sector it was necessary to go up the highway to the town of Filigare where II Corps had its command post and turn right on "Easy Street," a rough, twisting, climbing, descending, corduroyed, gravel and mud engineering miracle that had been constructed to lead to those areas off the main supply route, Highway 65. Its name satirized both the conditions under which it was built and the experience of riding over it. Once a truck driver had negotiated Easy Street's log paving, made its sharp downgrades which inevitably revealed a Bailey bridge at the hairpin turn at the bottom, and stayed out of the wooden gutters which had to drain off the rains and mud, he could pass the most fiendish driving course that the mind of man and the cooperation of nature could devise, and could do it without half trying.

However, the engineers had done a masterful job of making Easy Street out of almost nothing and putting a practical if not luxurious road where no road should be. The troops on the line in the sectors which Easy Street supplied can thank them for every round they had to fire and every bite they had to eat all through the dreary winter months, because with careful nursing by details which kept the mud shoveled off to a degree that vehicles wouldn't bog down and jam up traffic, Easy Street functioned as lifeline until the final push in April which made it obsolete and useless.

The Idice Valley area in which the 363d Infantry found itself after traveling the five roller-coaster miles of Easy Street was known familiarly as Death Valley. It was a drab, weary, war-torn, muddy, colorless, desolate streambed through which the road sometimes led, at other times climbing the slate-grey cliffs which bordered the stream and crossing over more Baileys that bridged gaps blown by the Germans in the road shelf. Although the Idice was now shallow and narrow it had recently overflowed its banks and upon receding had left a foot of thick, gooey mud over everything in the valley. In this mud and



Death Valley and Easy Street

scattered throughout the area was the debris of war—cardboard shell containers, German Riegel, Teller and *Schü* mines which had been placed in the bed against the Allies using it as a route of tank approach, and which were now stuck in the mud at odd angles, parts of planes that had crashed, a German body or part of one just uncovered, dead branches and small tree trunks washed along, then left high when the water receded. And always the mud!

In the sector itself two battalions were on line, the 1st Battalion generally to the east of the river, the 2d Battalion to the west with the stream generally acting as the boundary. The 3d Battalion was initially in reserve in the vicinity of the towns of Fiumetto and Molinetto, both north of the Regimental command post at Savazzo. The 1st Battalion placed two companies on line. Company A on the right was disposed along the C. de Gusi-Hill 437-C. Zanarella ridge which came to a point there overlooking the enemy held towns of Orbege, C. Chilli, and Ca Merla where the Balino tributary draining the mountains to the east joined the Idice River. On the left of Company A was Company C astride the Idice River, one platoon occupying the houses Canovetta below the Zanarella ridge on the east side of the stream, the other platoons occupying the unnamed houses directly across on the west side and the town of Ca di Razzone 500 yards to the north where the road leading up the valley crossed the river. The 2d Battalion in the western section of the Regimental area was located across the ridge which began at Mt. delle Forniche two miles to the south and was bounded on the west by the Zena River and valley and on the east by the Idice River and valley. Company E, on the right of the 2d Battalion zone, occupied exposed positions ringing Hill 358, with two platoons in the houses on the slopes of the enemy-held hill and the support platoon in houses several hun-



General of the Army George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff, addresses men of Company M during his visit.

dred yards farther south. On the left Company F had one platoon in C. Colina, one in Poggio, and one between Poggio and C. Ronco Coresa just north of Mt. delle Vigna and Mt. Ceresa.

In reserve were Companies G and B for the 2d and 1st Battalions respectively, the former at C. di Gennar, and C. Pietrafitta, the latter with platoons at Ca Spettra and C. Aradalie. Company D mortars were emplaced with one section near the company command post at C. dei Sanadini 200 yards west of the Idice with the others located immediately behind the high ground occupied by Company A, Hill 471. Company H mortars and command post were at C. dei Marchetti.

Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Company located at Savazza, Service Company at Ca di Lavacchio, Cannon Company at Hill 378, Antitank Company at Baccanello.

No sooner had the Regiment moved in and made itself familiar with the new area when at daybreak a German deserter turned himself in to the right platoon of Company E at Vinaio, materially aiding the 363d Infantry in carrying out the mission of turning in two prisoners a week to II Corps. This was the first of a series of desertions and captures which resulted in the Regiment learning the location, strength, plans, personnel, quality, and armament of almost all of the enemy positions facing it in detail and contributed essential information necessary to future company and platoon raids plans for which were even then being drawn up by the 363d Infantry.

At 1105, 14 February, the 3d Battalion was visited by General of the Army George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff; Lieutenant General Joseph T. McNarney, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Mediterranean Theater; Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark, 15th Army Group commander; Lieutenant General Lucian K. Truscott, Fifth Army commander; Major General William G. Livesay, 91st Division commander and acting II Corps commander; and Major General Ralph Hospital, 91st Division Artillery commander and acting Division commander. Accompanied by Colonel Magill and Lieutenant Colonel Long, the group inspected the Company K platoon commanded by Lieutenant Lewis Shain and the Company M mortar section commanded by Lieutenant Kenneth G. Kirkpatrick, which was then cleaning weapons. After informally talking to the men, especially wearers of the Purple Heart, General Marshall thanked the platoons for appearing for the inspection and gave a brief talk during which he complimented them for the work they and the rest of the Regiment had done in the Italian campaign. Before leaving, the Chief of Staff also questioned the cooks concerning the rations the companies were receiving and walked into a room full of soldiers engaged in a poker game. The men jumped surprisedly to attention while cards and money fell to the floor.

After his tour of the fighting areas, General Marshall said in an official statement: "The difficulties of the mountainous country with few roads and winter conditions are very real. The strength of the enemy's defensive positions in such a country is equally apparent. Under these conditions our U.S. troops and those of our allies have done a splendid job and made a great contribution to the war. A large German force has been held in Italy and prevented from bolstering the enemy's hard-pressed troops on the Eastern and Western Front."

Early the next morning another enemy deserter was captured by Company A at the outpost before C. de Gusi, adding to the chain of information for the coming raids. By now information of the enemy facing the 363d Infantry

boiled down to this: The Regiment was faced by elements of the 576th Regiment of the German 305th Division, which had relieved its brother, the 578th Regiment, the night of 3-4 February. The 5th Company, 576th Grenadier Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant Schindler, was located at C. Carrara where twenty men with one light machine gun and two heavy machine guns formed the company command post. Three outposts were placed 300 yards south of the command post—which put them close to the Company E positions around Hill 368 and the Company F positions at C. Collina. These outposts consisted of one group of 6 men armed with a light machine gun in addition to personal weapons, a second group of 14 men with two light machine guns in addition to personal weapons, and a third group of 36 men, weapons other than personal weapons unknown. The 3d Company was to the west of the 5th Company, with the 2d Company outposting Hill 357 just west of the Company F, 363d Infantry, positions at C. Collina. The 7th Company, commanded by Lieutenant Goetz, was outposting the vicinity of the town of Ca Merla facing Company A and had a company strength of approximately 30 men divided into two platoons and each platoon into two squads of from four to six men each. Company weapons were three light machine guns each with 1500 rounds of ammunition, five machine pistols, three rifle grenades, two *Ofenröhre* (similar to the American bazooka) with eight rounds of ammunition. Attached to the 5th Company to guard the road from Ca di Razzone against an armored attack was a six-man squad from the 14th (Antitank) Company armed with the two bazookas. This squad was located with the outpost of eleven men and a light machine gun at Ca Merla while another group of six men and a light machine gun 200 yards to the east maintained a field of fire south along the road. The 7th Company command post was located in an old mill near the town of C. Merla. The 6th Company was to the immediate east of the 5th Company in the vicinity of C. Chilli farther up the high ground.

While daylight observation and firing was carried on and night patrols probed for more information, the plans for the raids on the known enemy positions were being worked over and changed as new information and intelligence was accumulated. One of these patrols, consisting of one officer, one noncommissioned officer and fourteen men from the reserve Company B, left shortly after dark 15 February to search out a possible route of attack on Ca Merla and the German 7th Company outposts there and perhaps capture any lone Germans in that area for additional information. Although no more prisoners were captured the patrol discovered that the roads were not mined where they had been, but that the stream just north of Ca Merla was not passable at the road.

Besides this group four listening posts were set up and contacts were maintained between companies. Two Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon men confirmed the reported enemy defense positions on Hill 357 near the Company F Collina outpost by drawing fire and allowing the Germans to roll hand grenades down on them. A short time later the enemy placed three rounds of 120mm mortar within 40 yards of Collina and sent a patrol estimated at three men armed with a machine pistol and rifles and supported by the mortars to harass the position. Company F took up the fight and dispersed the patrol with rifle and the company mortar fire, starting a fire about 200 yards north of the platoon's positions. One man was heard moaning in the darkness. Then the moaning stopped. It was believed that the friendly mortar fire had hit the German ammunition which had been brought forward with the mortars which

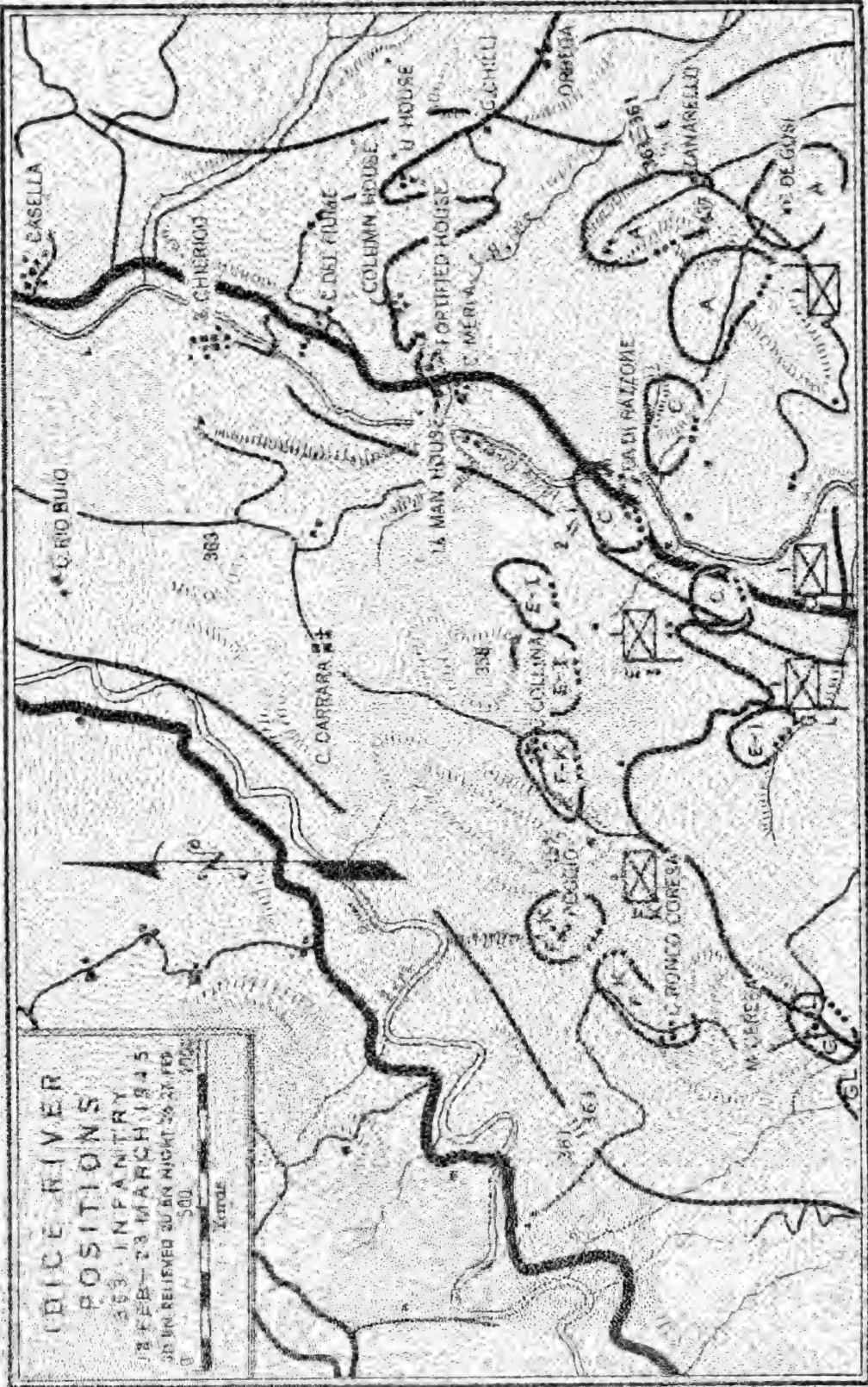


A war dog and his master start out on a patrol mission.

supported the attack. The next morning an enemy body could be seen lying where the action had taken place the night before and arrangements were made to recover it as soon as it got dark. This body proved to be that of a German first lieutenant of infantry, but contained no front-line unit markings or military information of importance.

The Company B patrol went out to Ca Merla again the night of 16-17 February to find out where the stream north of the town could be crossed. It left Ca di Razzo at dark, crossed the Idice at the bridge there, moved up the road past enemy-held Ca Merla and followed the Balino stream bed east for two hundred yards to a place where it was fordable, a location which had to be established before any attack in strength could be made to the north. At the same time a Company G patrol which was going to attack the German 5th Company's six-man bunker northeast of Collina to take prisoners met a German 15-20 man patrol halfway between the 5th and F Companies' outposts and a fight followed. The Company G patrol leader fired a flare for prearranged supporting mortar fire to be laid on the area and withdrew his patrol. His flare must have been the same color that the Germans were using for the same purpose because immediately afterward both Poggio and Collina, Company P outposts, received a heavy mortaring. There were no casualties suffered from it and the patrol returned safely under the protection of the friendly mortars.

The following night, in addition to the usual contact patrols and listening posts, Lieutenant Robert C. Benckart and five men from Company E went to Hill 357 to knock out the reported machine-gun positions of the German 2d Company there. These were the same positions that the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon men had located several nights previously. As the patrol approached it drew no fire. The men saw two small bunkers dug out of the earth with overhead cover—there were four Germans in the right bunker, two in the left. After locating the firing slits, Benckart split his group into two



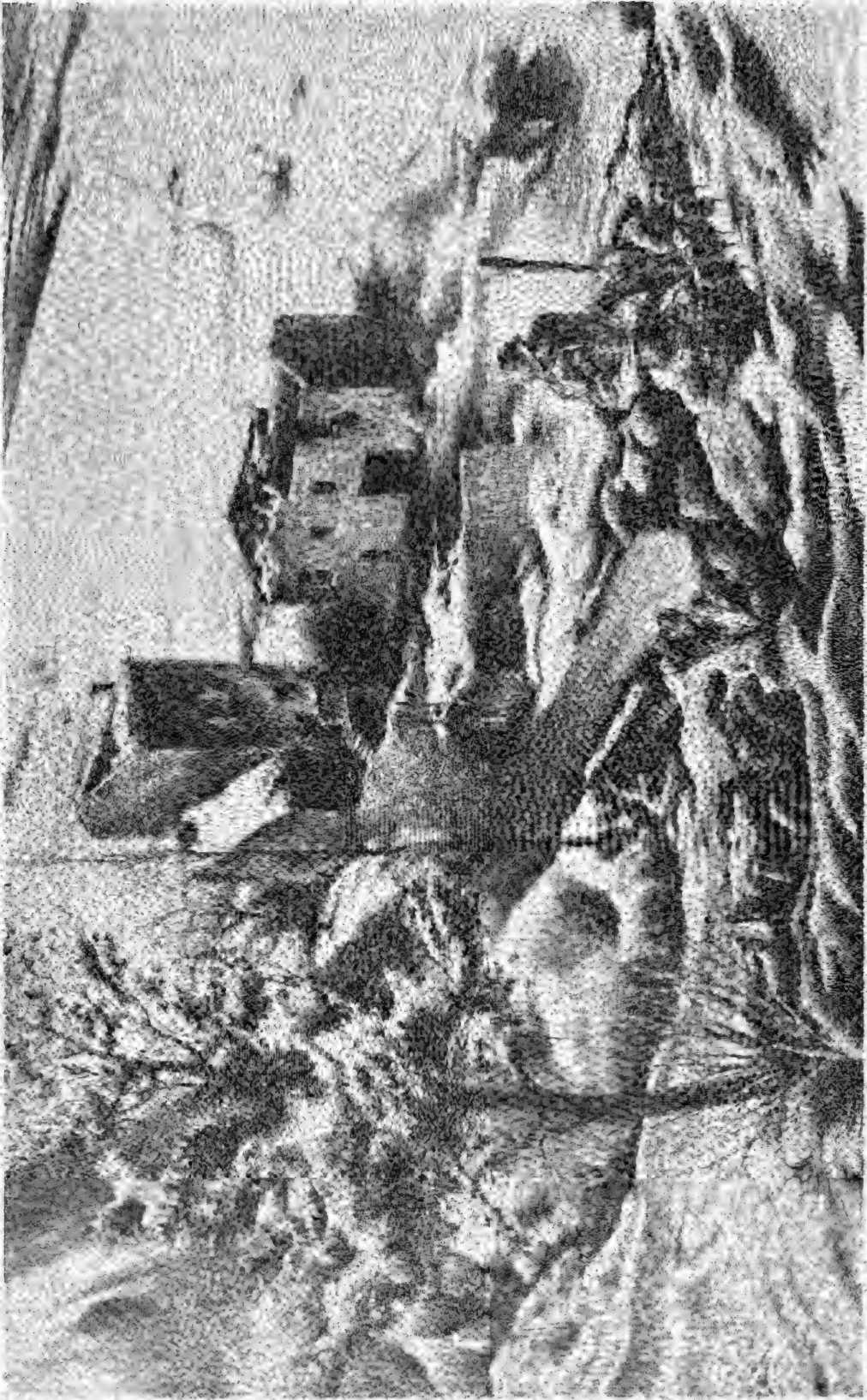
Death Valley.

and attacked the positions with hand grenades ready. He got to within a few feet of the firing slit of one bunker when a German popped up. They exchanged grenades, and the fight was on. After ten minutes of sustained action a yellow flare was fired from one of the bunkers and as a result the patrol was brought under rifle and machine-gun fire from positions supporting the bunkers and had to dive over the bank to the rear to escape. Three casualties were reported to have been inflicted on the enemy with the patrol suffering none.

At dawn the next morning, 18 February, two more German defenders were picked up by the company C outpost guarding the bridge near Ca di Razzone. These turned out to be two members of the Antitank (14th) Company Squad which was attached to Lieutenant Goetz's 7th Company in the vicinity of Ca Merla. Their information was meager because they were only attached and didn't know too much about the locations of other parts of the 7th Company. One spoke German poorly but between the two they did advise of mine-field positions, both Teller and *Schü*, besides warning of booby traps in and around Ca Merla. While routine contact patrols and five listening posts went out at night reporting no enemy contact, each accomplishing its mission, the Company F platoon at Poggio was hit by four enemy bazooka rounds and some small-arms fire, including a machine pistol, from a German patrol out looking for a fight. Company F retaliated with a barrage from its company mortars directed on the enemy from the outpost just north of Collina, quieting the German fire. No casualties resulted in Poggio from this attack but the Company F outpost which had adjusted the mortar barrage on the enemy patrol was just returning to platoon headquarters in Collina when enemy mortars hit the town, killing two of the men and wounding a third. Again at 0550 the Germans threw in a mortar concentration between Companies E and F, seriously wounding a man from Company E who died as he was being carried to the aid station.

• Two combat patrols in strength went out the night of 19 February, one from each of the battalions on line. The Company G patrol of 2 officers and 24 men passed through the outposts near Poggio at midnight down the slope leading into the Zena River bed where the stream made a U-shaped bend approximately 500 yards north of the friendly positions, stringing telephone wire behind them to maintain contact with the outposts. The moon was bright and the clouds few so that the patrol was forced to halt for two hours on the trail until more clouds made the night darker, then move on in two columns of a squad each. As they descended to the valley floor an enemy machine gun opened fire about 35 yards in front of the left squad. The patrol hit the ground and returned fire with grenades, automatic rifle, submachine gun and rifle fire. Another enemy gun opened up from the right and a machine pistol from the left. Enemy mortar fire started to fall in the area, and the patrol leader phoned back for mortar and artillery prearranged counter-mortar fires to be placed on the known enemy mortar emplacements. The Germans increased the size of their mortars but the heavier shells landed slightly to the right of the patrol. Under its own fire power and the counter-mortar barrages the patrol withdrew suffering no casualties and taking no prisoners.

The other patrol in strength was from Company B, a raiding party composed of Lieutenant Charles J. Murphy, his platoon guide, platoon sergeant, one squad leader, one assistant squad leader and 17 men, four of whom were a litter squad, who were to attack what came to be known as the "Fortified House" near Ca Merla, with the mission of capturing prisoners and documents.



Modarman in the Idice River Valley (Sketch by Capt. Edward Keep)

This house was a substantially built farmhouse across the road from and slightly north of Ca Merla, located between the Bolino tributary to the Idice River and a side road which twisted down from the towns of Orbega and C. Chilli on the ridge above. It has been sandbagged, mined, dug in and occupied by five of Lieutenant Goetz's 7th Company men, plus a two-man bazooka team from the Antitank (14th) Company. The deserters had described the place in minute detail. The patrol had gone over a floor plan of the fortified house that they had drawn, they knew that the seven men in the house would be sleeping at the time of the raid and they knew where each man would be lying. They knew that the guard would be at the one door that was not boarded up and that door was the one facing west. One room of the house was booby-trapped. By patrols on previous nights the best routes to the houses had been determined.

The patrol crossed the Idice at the Razzone bridge, armed with five sub-machine guns, six automatic rifles, eight grenade launchers, four white phosphorus grenades with each man carrying two hand grenades and either a knife or bayonet. Other equipment included a radio, two telephones, wire and the litter. It was now 0245. They turned right up the trail beyond the bridge and came to an unoccupied house about 100 yards farther on the path. Here the four men who composed the litter team stopped while the remaining 18 continued noiselessly north on the trail to the Fortified House a quarter of a mile away. Halfway there an operator with radio accompanied by two more men equipped with grenade launchers were stationed with a telephone. Just short of the Fortified House they crossed the stream and dropped off another man with a telephone.

With no preliminary fire preparation to destroy the element of surprise the remaining 15 quietly approached the house from the southeast, eleven of them taking up positions surrounding it. The plan now called for two men to circle around the north side of the house as two more came around the south side to capture the guard at the door on the west side.

When this was done the white phosphorus grenades would be fired in the door to eliminate the Germans on the ground floor, the raiding party would close in, take their prisoners and withdraw under their own fire to the assembly point where the radio operator had been dropped off. From there they would return to the outpost at Ca di Razzone.

As planned, two men circled around the north side of the house as Murphy and a fourth man moved up to the southwest corner. The guard was inside the doorway as the deserters said he would be, but there was someone with him. Murphy could see the other two men approaching from the north side of the house and threw a rock to attract the guards outside where they could be overpowered by the four men. The ruse didn't work and the guards paid no attention to the slight noise. As the two men from the north closed in on the doorway two other Germans, probably a carrying party, approached the house from the road. One of the guards looked up when he heard, and then saw the Americans in the open, challenged and fired. The occupants of the house alerted by the shots came to the upper story windows, and seeing what was going on opened fire and dropped hand grenades. The two attackers took cover near a small shed in the northeast corner of the farmyard. An enemy squad leader saw them run and he took a bead on them with a machine pistol from one of the upstairs windows but the weapon failed to fire.

Meanwhile the patrol remained in position around the house waiting. Murphy

and the fourth man stayed undetected around the house until the confusion was over, then began to search for the two missing men. They called them by name. No answer. After a twenty-minute search they assembled the rest of the patrol at the rendezvous point, waited a while longer and when the two men still didn't show up, returned to the outposts. No prisoners were taken. The two men, who made their way back to the outposts later that night, did not answer Murphy's calls for fear of giving away their positions to the enemy. They said that just after the patrol had left, the German company commander, Lieutenant Goetz, arrived with a messenger to visit his outpost, unaware that it had just been attacked. While the two men were in hiding near the shed they were approached by two Germans who spoke to them. One of the GIs raised his submachine gun and attempted to fire but it jammed. It is reasonable to believe that the two supposedly lost members of the patrol had the opportunity to capture the 7th Company commander at this time. When his gun wouldn't fire, the American jumped back, tripped into the ditch, lost his helmet, and lay low until the two Germans left and went into the house, then he and his companion made their way back to their own lines without recovering the lost helmet.

The perfectly planned raid had not worked because of one factor—the guards had not been quietly captured. Of even more importance than the success or failure of the raid to produce prisoners, however, was the incident of the missing helmet. As far as had been possible to determine from prisoners, the enemy did not know what unit was opposite them in the line. The fact that the 91st Division was there was unknown to the Germans. To the soldier it means little or nothing, but to higher Intelligence units the fact that an enemy division is not on the line and its whereabouts unknown makes it a potential weapon for an attack or offensive at any spot in the line, and a force must be kept in reserve to counter the potential thrust at an unknown place at an unknown time, should it come. More specifically, the 91st Division had been off the line for a rest, and while there it was a reserve force for the Allied armies to use in attacking the Germans any place on the Italian front. As far as the Germans knew, the Division could be back preparing to begin an offensive anywhere, anytime, and therefore the enemy had to keep a reserve force of his own ready to move to wherever such a thrust occurred, to stop it. Too, the force which had to be kept in readiness to counterattack at an unknown point could not very well be placed on line in a specific sector, but had to be kept at a place from which it could be moved rapidly to any threatened point in a large area. Consequently, the enemy line was not as strong as it might have been had it not been necessary to keep such a large reserve force in the more rear areas. When the enemy found the helmet with the Fir Tree insignia painted on it and identified it, they would then know that the 91st Division was again on line and not a potential reserve weapon to be used for a surprise thrust into their lines. They could then utilize some of the reserve units to strengthen the line or relieve some tired unit already on line. The question now was: did the men of the German 7th Company find and identify the Fir Tree helmet; if so, did they realize its importance to high headquarters? The 363d Infantry had to wait two days for the answer.

Although the patrol had come back to its outposts without prisoners another German deserter gave himself up to the Company C outpost at the Ca di Razzone bridge early the next morning. The information which he possessed

shed no light on the case of the missing helmet—he was from the 5th Company, facing elements of the 2d Battalion to the west—but he did reveal that the enemy was planning to attack Company E in the near future and drive it out of the positions it now held on the slopes of Hill 358. He also pointed out some new information concerning the bunker positions occupied by his platoon besides confirming most of the previous reports given on his company area. He stated that the American patrol led by Lieutenant Benckart on Hill 357 the night of 18 February had killed the noncommissioned officer in charge of the 1st Platoon and had wounded another man with small-arms fire.

That day, 20 February, saw little activity other than the usual engaging of any visible enemy targets. The 1st Battalion, having discovered all the information about routes and enemy dispositions around Ca Merla, determined to begin leveling the positions in the vicinity beginning with the fortified house. As American troops were too close to place the fire of 155mm guns on the house, the mission was given to the 752d Tank Battalion, which was supporting the Regiment by fire and acting as supporting artillery. Thirty shells were fired during the middle afternoon, crumbling the upper story first, then leveling the entire western end. Early in the evening another patrol from Company B, of the same strength as the one which raided the night before, attempted to get to the now demolished Fortified House. After following preparatory fires almost to Ca Merla the main body was held up by the unusually bright moonlight. Five men who went ahead into the town were spotted and drew small-arms fire from the Germans outposting the buildings there. The five saw the inadvisability of a further attempt to get through with the entire patrol and called down friendly mortar fire on the town. This fire was extremely accurate, and before the patrol withdrew enemy cries could be heard coming from one of the buildings which had been hit. Because of the good visibility the patrol made no further attempt to reach the Fortified House that night. Seven other listening posts and contact patrols were active all accomplishing their missions.

While the Company B patrol was attempting to reach Ca Merla on the east bank of the Idice River the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon had an eight-man reconnaissance patrol led by the platoon leader, Lieutenant Bone, and accompanied by an officer from each of the 1st and 2d Battalions whose mission took them up the west side of the river to several houses which it was suspected were sometimes used as outposts by the enemy. They were to find out whether the enemy was using the houses for outposts and locate a good route besides furnishing data on existing minefields. After being held up for three hours by the moonlight they reached their objective to find the house badly torn apart by artillery hits. A German communication wire led into the house and implied that the house was used by the enemy on occasion although none were there at the time. When no mines or minefields were found the patrol cut the wire and returned. While the patrol was still at the house across the river from Ca Merla a propaganda broadcast was made to the German troops in the vicinity by means of a loud-speaker placed in front of the Company F positions at Collina.

Attention! Attention! Soldiers of the 576th Regiment in the 305th Division—you over there nearby, listen attentively. This is an important message—important to every one of you! Pay attention! Your lives are at stake. Therefore, listen attentively. Soldiers of the 576th Regiment. You fought valiantly. In Italy you buried many of your comrades—your ranks thinned out. Your comrades from the supply lines have been thrown

into the main line of resistance. They have been replaced by foreign volunteers. You know only too well what to expect from those volunteers.

Why are you still lying out here in the cold? Why do you risk your lives? You know yourselves that it is of no avail any more. Germany is losing the war—that's an undeniable, generally accepted fact. [This statement was followed by the latest news of the Allied armies closing in on Berlin after which the theme returned along its surrender-or-die lines.]

Do you want to sacrifice yourselves for a lost cause? Do you want to be killed—at this point, so shortly before the end? . . . if you stay in your foxhole stubbornly and apathetically you will eventually be killed off by our artillery. A number of your comrades are with us already. They had sufficient pluck to give up the unequal struggle . . . do you want to be less courageous than your comrades were?

There are always opportunities to desert; you just have to take advantage of them. The best thing for you to do is to sneak out of your position at night, hide where nobody can find you—and come over to our line in the early morning. There is no need to be afraid of minefields, those mines have been in the snow and wet ground for weeks and months. They are completely inoffensive by now; we verified this many times ourselves.

As soon as you meet Allied outposts lay down all your weapons—including your belt and helmet!—raise both your hands and keep moving one man at a time. In order to avoid any possible misunderstanding you may call "I surrender."

. . . here on our side all preparations have been made for your reception. There is a warm barn where you can dry your feet first of all—and if you arrive in the early morning you may come just in time for breakfast . . .

The speaker was a member of the Fifth Army Psychological Warfare Branch, Sergeant Klaus Mann, son of the German author, Thomas Mann.

And one German did desert. He was from the 7th Company—one of the guards on the Fortified House the night of the attack—and had also been in the house when it was demolished, having fled to the cellar with the other six occupants, none of whom were hurt. He had not, however, heard the propaganda broadcast, having been sent to get rations for his squad at the time. When he returned to the house the company commander, Lieutenant Goetz, was there. One of the deserter's friends addressed him: "Well, they have spoken."

"Who has spoken?" asked the prisoner.

"The Americans have—he spoke beautifully," replied his friend.

"What! You call that beautiful? That was propaganda!" exclaimed Lieutenant Goetz, who had been listening to the conversation.

"Well," the soldier said hastily, "I meant that the message was spoken distinctly and could be easily understood." When the officer had left the room the soldier explained the contents of the broadcast. "They said that we should waste no time and come over as soon as possible," he said.

The prisoner told that in the subsequent conversation it had come out that the men had discussed deserting as a unit but had decided not to because of reprisals against their families. The morale of the company had been badly shaken because Lieutenant Goetz required them to take such exposed positions, in addition to the raids, the shelling, and the broadcast. The prisoner had intended coming over for days and after the broadcast felt that he would be received in a friendly manner, therefore he left at once, arriving at Ca di Razzo at 0500. He also said that no one knew what unit was opposing the German regiment.

The missing helmet had been found the morning after the raid by one of the German soldiers. He had brought it into the house where it was examined by everybody there for a while, then relegated for use as a pot, washbasin, shaving bowl, sink and bucket. It was such a handy thing to have around that the

squad wouldn't show it to Lieutenant Goetz because he might take it away from them. As a result the helmet was never examined for identifying marks and the identity of the 91st Division in the sector remained unknown to the enemy.

Lieutenant Hans A. Holterhoff, prisoner-of-war interrogator with the 363d Infantry, made arrangements at the request of Lieutenant Colonel Woods, acting as regimental executive officer at the time, to have Lieutenant Murphy and his patrol which had raided the Fortified House get together with the prisoner and question him in relation to the raid. This session brought out the mistakes which had been made and the ways of correcting them, the attitude of the Germans in the house, and filled in the few vacant places in the complete story of the raid and results.

Meanwhile arrangements were made for relief of the 2d Battalion by the 3d Battalion in the left or western zone of the Regimental sector. The date was set for the night of 27-28 February.

The afternoon of 21 February the tanks continued fire on the enemy-held houses in front of the Regiment. The principal target was the house on Hill 368 from which the contemplated German attack on Company E was to come. Ten direct hits were scored although no enemy was seen. Later they turned the guns back toward Ca Merla and knocked down the house between the Idice River and the ruins of the Fortified House.

That day too saw 14 authors and writers visit the reserve 3d Battalion in search of atmosphere and authentic detail for future stories, including Rex Stout (*Nero Wolfe*), chairman of the Writers War Board; Roger Burlingame (*March of the Iron Men*); Carl Carmer, president of the American Pen Club; Marquis Childs (*Sweden the Middle Way*); Mary Cookman, executive editor of *Ladies' Home Journal*; Dorothy Cameron Disney (*The Seventeenth Letter*); Toni Frizell, official WAS photographer; Beatrice Blackmer Gould, co-editor-in-chief of *Ladies' Home Journal*; Carol Hill, short-story writer; Joseph Marshall (Sgt. Hardesty stories); Nancy Wilson Ross (*Westward the Women*); Harold von Schmidt, illustrator for the *Saturday Evening Post*; Stanley Young (*Mayflower Boy*) and Kay Boyle (*Avalanche*).

The usual patrol activity took place during the hours of darkness with five listening posts, three contact patrols, and one reconnaissance patrol accomplishing their missions, the latter finding another route from the Ca di Razzone bridge to Ca Merla.

Again the Company C outpost at the bridge picked up a German deserter at 0630 the next morning. One of the outpost remarked that it was just like going out on the front porch for the morning paper at home and just as regular. This prisoner was the second man from the bazooka team of the 14th Company attached to the 7th Company squad occupying the Fortified House. His information substantiated that already known, and he added that bunkers were being constructed at the house between the river and the Fortified House, that *Schü* mines were laid between that house and Ca Merla plus two large 20-pound flares which could be released by the guard inside the house in case of another attack or raid. He also knew of a plan to attack the 363d Infantry's Company E positions on Hill 368 to destroy the machine guns there. This attack was to come from above where the 5th Company had positions on the same hill, was to consist of 22 men and was considered a suicide mission. At this time the attack had been ordered but not yet fully organized. Because of the low strength of the 5th Company the 7th Company at Ca Merla was to

furnish 20 men, the 14th (Antitank) Company the two-man bazooka team. This posed a pretty problem for the harried Lieutenant Goetz who was reported earlier to have 30 men in his company. Since then two had been killed, one wounded, and two had deserted. Subtract them and the 20 for the attack, and Lieutenant Goetz had exactly five men with which to defend the 7th Company sector at Ca Merla. Coupled with this, the following day the tanks continued their systematic demolishing of the 7th Company houses near Ca Merla. Scheduled for the afternoon of 22 February were the old mill which served as company headquarters 400 yards north of the Fortified House on the river bank and the "Column House," on the high ground to the west of the Fortified House, so-called because of those identifying features. By late afternoon the Column House was well down although it refused to burn under numerous hits by white phosphorus shells, and the old mill was practically destroyed. Artillery concentrations and the .50 caliber machine guns of Antitank Company covered the area around the two places to prevent any enemy inside from escaping. Shortly afterwards the Germans filled the valley with smoke to obscure the targets.

For over a week now the 2d Battalion had been sounding out Hill 358 just north and above the houses they occupied. It was from the bunkers and machine-gun positions of the 5th Company here that the contemplated German attack on Company E was to be launched but rather than have the Germans make the first move it was decided to go up the hill, surprise the enemy and clear the bunkers, secure prisoners and hold the high ground if possible. On the morning of 26 February Captain Carberry, commanding Company E, ordered Lieutenant Benckart to take his platoon and attack the hill.

Lieutenant Benckart's plan called for the platoon to be divided up into three groups, the first one under Staff Sergeant Alfred Akers to consist of his squad of 10 men and an automatic rifle team of two men from the 3d Squad; Benckart had a squad of 10 men including two sub-machine guns and an automatic rifle team from the 3d Squad also; the 3d Squad, under Technical Sergeant James Pfau, Benckart's platoon sergeant, was to be a reserve group and consist of 11 men. The two leading squads were to attack abreast—Akers' on the right, Benckart's on the left—and take the bunkers in front of them, while Pfau's reserve squad was to follow at 35 yards to a wooded knoll from where the actual assault on the bunkers was to begin and there wait until they were called into the bunkers. The signal for the assault of the bunkers by the two squads was to be the explosions of the pole charges carried by Benckart and Akers, who would advance ahead of the squads in the dark and throw them into the enemy-held bunkers. They were to explode simultaneously at 0630.

After everyone had been thoroughly briefed the night before and armed with four grenades and two bandoleers of rifle ammunition, they were ordered to eat a good meal and get all the rest possible. At 0400 the platoon was alerted and their gear checked. K rations were passed out, two to a man. Half an hour later they split into small groups to prevent being silhouetted in the semi-bright moonlight and moved from the company command post to the platoon outposts on the slopes of Hill 358. They left the outpost at 0510 and started crawling forward to the bunkers in single file across what at one time was a grape vineyard but which now was a furrowed, shell-pocked, mined, open field. About 35 yards from the top of the hill Benckart's group cut to the left to come up under the bunker it was to knock out. Benckart sent a runner

to tell Akers to take his squad to the right under the bunker they were to attack and Pfau to disperse his in the small furrow and knoll at that point. The runner reported back at 0545 that everyone was in position. Both assault squads were at this time about 15 yards from their objectives. At 0600 the runner was sent back to Akers with orders that the pole charges would be set off at 0625. It was still fairly dark. At 0621 Benckart started to crawl alone closer to the bunker in front of him dragging the pole charge when he heard an enemy machine pistol open fire on his right.

Moments later Private First Class Thomas P. Hylton, Jr., crawled over to Benckart and told him that when Akers had started to advance to place his charge in the bunker he had been discovered and fired on. The lieutenant sent Hylton back with the message to Akers to set the time at 0630 then and throw a grenade instead of the pole charge. Right on the dot of 0630 Akers' hand grenade went off and the enemy in the bunkers retaliated with a barrage of hand grenades and machine-pistol fire. Benckart crawled up the hill and threw three of his grenades in the direction of the fire, then a few bursts into the positions with his sub-machine gun. He kept advancing with his pole charge. After working his way to the crest of the hill almost at the door of the bunker by means of a shallow trench Benckart was spotted by a German who stuck his head out of the dugout. Benckart fired two bursts from the sub-machine gun, threw the pole charge and was almost immediately joined by Private First Class Thomas A. Carlin, Private Cletus O. Anderson and Staff Sergeant Richard Garretson, who covered him by fire as he crawled down and threw two grenades into the bunker. Deeming it not wise to enter the bunker until the trenches to the rear had been checked, Garretson and Benckart worked through them, found them empty, then returned to enter the bunker. As they approached it the German who had spotted Benckart first emerged carrying a Red Cross flag. He had four men with him. Asked whether there were any more men in the bunker, the man carrying the flag said, "No," and was sent with his four companions over the crest of the hill to Staff Sergeant Enos Beeson of the reserve squad. Benckart started for a second bunker and as he reached the opening to that someone yelled, "*Kamerad—nichts schießen!*" and five more German soldiers walked out; these were put in charge of Private Harry F. Bowen who took them back with the other five to Sergeant Beeson who was just starting back to the outpost. Beeson delivered the ten prisoners to Staff Sergeant Norman Rodriguez at the platoon command post. He guarding them throughout the trip—during which they came under some of their own mortar fire—with an empty .45 pistol, he having fired all his cartridges.

Benckart meanwhile went to a third bunker, threw two grenades into it and returned to the bunker from which the last five prisoners had been taken. Anderson went to call the platoon runner and tell him that Lieutenant Benckart wanted the radio brought into the bunker so that he could contact Captain Carberry at the outpost, but as Anderson left the bunker and crawled up the connecting trench which led to the top of the hill, an enemy machine gun opened fire, wounding him severely in the abdomen and right arm. Garretson crawled to him between machine-gun bursts and gave him first aid, but Anderson refused to let the sergeant help him off the hill. He crawled to the friendly slope and was helped down to the outpost while Private Ralph W. Smith crawled up to the enemy trench with the radio and handed it to Benckart. Bowen crawled forward and joined the other men in the bunker who were running

short of ammunition and were firing the German guns instead of their own.

The platoon leader radioed Captain Carberry and told him that they had the hill but needed more men up there in the bunkers. The radio was not functioning very clearly and Benckart doubted that his message got through. However, Captain Carberry heard and immediately started another squad from the outpost forward up the hill to reinforce Benckart, and moved the support platoon forward to where it could be committed instantly if needed.

Believing that his message was not heard, Benckart crawled back to the reverse slope where the rest of the platoon was strung over the hillside.

"I took a chance," said the lieutenant, "and ran back to the leader of the right squad, Sergeant Akers, telling him to rally the other men below who were held up by another machine gun from the draw in our rear. That's when the gun on the left opened up again.

"I had my arm on Akers' shoulder when they hit us. The sleeve of my field jacket was ripped and a knife fob on my pants was cut in two. I looked over at the sergeant and he had a couple of hits across the chest. 'Think it's in the shoulder,' he said. I told him to take it easy. Then I got hold of Pfau, my platoon sergeant, and told him to get some men into the pillboxes while I went back down to our outpost and tried to get the CO on the phone. I told him then that we couldn't hold out and he said to get the men out.

"But they couldn't get out then; they were cut off. The others along the hillside infiltrated back down, bringing the wounded and the sergeant who died before help reached him. Nine men remained up there in the bunkers."

Benckart tried to return to his men but because of the increased machine-gun fire was unable to get back up the hill. He called to the man ahead of him and told him to pass along the word to come off the hill. The nine men who were kept on the hill by the crossfire of the enemy machine guns to their rear stayed there all day—Pfau, Garretson, Carlin, and Sergeant Jose Garcia in one bunker; Bowen, Smith and Private James R. Branch in another; Staff Sergeant James L. Wood and Private First Class Percy L. Neaville in a firing trench outside guarding against counterattack. They stayed low, firing German guns and ammunition when they had to and directed artillery and mortars on other German positions they could see from the top of the hill by means of the radio they had with them. They communicated among themselves by yelling to each other. One German sniper intent on getting a good target threw stones into a nearby bush and waited to shoot any curious risers.

Meanwhile Benckart and Captain Carberry had gone back to the battalion command post and were making arrangements to get the nine men off the hill as soon as darkness could conceal the move. Instructions were sent to the men in the bunkers by means of the radio, and as soon as the sun set the 81mm mortars of Company H, the 4.2-inch mortars of the 100th Chemical Mortar Battalion, the 105mm and 155mm guns of the supporting artillery, the Regimental Cannon Company, the 60mm mortars of Companies E, F, and G, the tanks and tank destroyers, and the guns of adjacent units all combined to lay a ring of steel around the hill, smoke the enemy positions to the north and east, fired on known and suspected enemy machine-gun positions and lay down all countermortar and counterbattery fires while the nine men took their cue and got away back down the slope to their outpost in pairs.

A short time after the men arrived at the outpost they heard and saw German grenades and shells going off in the vicinity of the bunkers as the enemy closed

in to finish them off. The results of the day's work included ten Germans captured, three of whom were wounded, three bunkers and a firing trench occupied for fourteen hours. They also brought back a German radio and an examination of papers on the prisoners revealed the German radio code which was of great value.

Later that night the 3d Battalion moved up and took over all the positions of the 2d Battalion on the line while the latter reverted to Regimental reserve in the towns of Molinetto and Fiumetto. Company E was relieved by Company I, Company F by Company K, Company G by Company L, and Company H by Company M. There was one casualty during the change; Lieutenant Bernard K. Weiler, Company M mortar and machine-gun section leader, was wounded in the neck by a mortar fragment and evacuated. The 1st Battalion remained in its defensive positions.

As soon as the relief was completed the battalions on line began plans for two more simultaneous raids, the date for which was set for 8 March. Preparations included flights over the proposed site of the 3d Battalion part of the attack to capture the bunkers on Hill 358 where the previous action had occurred; the amassing of all pertinent intelligence which had been accumulated to date plus that of another prisoner whom Company K outpost at Collina, captured from the 2d Company; the firing of artillery and mortars to soften the positions in addition to antiaircraft guns which fired at ground targets and rocket fire by the 752d Tank Battalion for the same purpose on Hill 363 to the north and the town of C. Rio Buio beyond; the ever-probing patrols which went out each night, sometimes accompanied by scout and messenger dogs from the 35th War Dog Platoon attached to the Regiment.

Companies B, I, K, and L were involved in the plan. Company B was to attack the "14-Man House" 100 yards north of Ca Merla and across the road from the now destroyed Fortified House, for the purpose of taking prisoners. Company L was to attack the bunkers of the 2d Company 400 yards north of the town of Collina. The other two companies were to join in a coordinated attack to capture the bunker positions of the 5th Company on Hill 358. This was called the Pine Tree Operation, and was scheduled to take place later than the Company B and Company L raids.

At 2130, 8 March, the Company B patrol of three officers (Lieutenant Murphy, Lieutenant Carroll M. Eaddy, and Lieutenant Camenisch), two non-commissioned officers, seventeen men, two dog teams, and a litter team, moved out from Ca di Razzone across the bridge over the Idice for the raid on the 14-Man House. This house had been raided on 20 February, shelled heavily the following day, and raided again the morning of 23 February, at which time it was found to be deserted. Further observation had shown, however, that 14 men of the 7th Company now occupied it and had placed mines, booby traps and flares around so that they would not be surprised by a raid such as the one which had almost succeeded against the nearby Fortified House. Reconnaissance patrols which had gone up the west side of the river or the river bed itself to find another route of attack returned with the recommendation that known trails leading to the town on the eastern side of the river were much more practical, and this was the way the raiding party went.

Now as the patrol reached the house across the road from the objective they found it unoccupied. Crossing the road to the 14-Man House, one of the members of the patrol tripped a wire releasing two white illuminating flares,

at sight of which the Germans on Hill 363 overlooking the scene fired a red flare calling down mortar fire on the patrol. Surprise had been lost, so the patrol withdrew, suffering no casualties.

While the Company B action was taking place the Company L patrol, in command of Lieutenant James D. Anders, prepared to move out of the town of Collina to attack the bunkers of the 2d Company. The patrol as usual was stripped down to the minimum essential weapons and equipment so that the least amount of noise would be made—even bayonets and trench knives remained behind. The 28 men, carrying a radio, two telephones, two drums of telephone wire, and white phosphorus grenades for the attack, besides personal weapons, left Collina at 2250 and followed the trail north along the ridge towards the town of C. Carrara. A short distance from its outposts it ran into a *Schū*-mine field and saw that they would have to clear a path through it. Not having anything with which to probe for the mines, Anders dispatched several men back to Collina to get the knives and bayonets that had been left behind.

Two hours later a path had been cleared through the minefield and the patrol continued north approaching the German 5th Company command post, Carrara, without seeing any sign of the enemy, his installations, or drawing any fire. The whole area seemed to be deserted. The patrol pushed on until 0400 without opposition, and at that time was told to return. It suffered no casualties.

At this time the men who were to participate in the Pine Tree Operation were getting ready in their assembly areas. The plan was for Lieutenant Edwin C. Eells and 14 men from Company K on the left to attack the enemy bunkers on the western side of Hill 358, while Lieutenant Jeremiah G. Dow and 32 men from Company I on the right would capture those on the east side of the hill. A saddle separated the two sets of enemy positions. Lieutenant Eells' Company K group was equipped with a radio, two sound-powered telephones, a reel of wire and two satchel charges for stubborn bunkers. Lieutenant Dow's group carried three flame throwers, a radio, four telephones, two reels of wire and two satchel charges. Extensive cannon, mortar, artillery and countermortar concentrations had been planned, in addition to concealing smoke screen to be placed north of Hill 358 at daylight to obstruct enemy visibility.

At 0600, under the concealment of predawn darkness, the two groups left their assembly areas and began the assault on Hill 358. The enemy fired three red flares from the positions on Hill 363 to the north just as the patrols moved out, revealing the fact that they had been seen in spite of precautions and that they could expect an enemy barrage very soon. The patrol leaders called for the arranged rocket fires which covered Hill 363 effectively but the flare signals brought down mortar concentrations on the 3d Battalion area which held up the raiders and cut the communication lines already laid. While the rocket tanks were being reloaded the countermortar barrages were crashing into the enemy positions and artillery shelled C. Carrara, the company command post of the Germans manning the nearby positions.

Under this friendly fire the raiding parties moved up the hill. All communication with Lieutenant Eells was already cut and Lieutenant Dow's group on the right found themselves under fire from the enemy above who, besides having machine guns trained on the assault party, was also hurling potato-masher grenades down from the higher ground. Now both groups were out of communication with headquarters and with each other, although they were only 100 yards apart and could see one another. The intensity of the mortar

fire increased and the enemy added artillery. Lieutenant Dow was hit and one of his men killed trying to move forward but Lieutenant Eells and eight Company I men rushed through the barrages, gaining the crest of the hill and the concealment of the foliage there. They continued forward. Fifty yards after passing the line of trees and bushes an enemy machine gun opened up on them from the left. Private First Class Lloyd E. Boell, with a submachine gun, and Private Pablino C. Travino, with an automatic rifle, sprayed the area and killed the gunner at a distance of 30 yards. They moved forward rapidly across the top of the hill, the barrages now to their rear, and started down the north slope to the path running across the reverse side of the hill. The bunkers were below.

Five men covered Lieutenant Eells while he and the others went down to search the bunkers; discovering them to be empty they returned to the path, rejoined the five and started up toward the most southern house in C. Carrara. At the top of the next hill they stopped, because it was growing light, while Eells attempted to call back on the radio and ask that the smoke screen be laid in front of them to conceal their movement. The radio wouldn't function. Just then a friendly mortar round hit about 20 yards from the group throwing splintered steel among them and lodging a two-inch sliver of shell casing in the nose of Private First Class Frank E. Grisi. Lieutenant Eells told him to leave it in to help stem the bleeding.

The group then started to backtrack up the draw to dig in for the day near a hedgerow when three Germans came out of the brush and made for them. Private First Class James C. Brooks, firing an automatic rifle, and Staff Sergeant Joseph Moisa, with an M-1, hit one of them. All three Germans hit the ground, then two of them rushed for a nearby dugout, the Americans after them. The Germans made it. The members of the patrol got to within 40 yards of the dugout and threw grenades, when machine guns from the opposite side of the draw opened fire. Believing it to be Company I raiders firing at them, the men shouted, "This is Company K—we're GIs!"

However, it was not long before they found out that it wasn't Company I but at least 15 more Germans firing rifles and three 50mm mortars in addition to the machine guns. The nine Company K men took cover in the deepest part of the draw which contained a shallow stream and began to crawl away from the fire. Lieutenant Eells and Staff Sergeant Osborne E. Amburg were both caught in a narrow gap where the stream curved, exposing them to direct fire from one of the guns. One burst hit Amburg above the knees and tore into the lieutenant's back. Before he died thirty seconds later Eells told Sergeant Brooks to ". . . keep going!"

The group lay in the stream all day submerged in knee-deep water with only their heads showing, deployed to cover about 50 yards. Grisi still had the steel splinter lodged crossways in his nose and kept changing handkerchiefs to slow up the flow of blood. By 1000 both of his eyes had turned black. Sergeant Amburg bandaged his own leg and kept working it all day so that when an opportunity came to escape it would not be too stiff to use. He was the farthest upstream, lying next to the body of Lieutenant Eells, then followed in order Moisa, Brooks, Private Harvey Tidmore, Grisi with the splinter in his nose, Trevino, Private First Class Valente Morales and Boell.

Moisa and Brooks spoke of trying to get out of the icy water and back to the outposts but Amburg persuaded them to wait until dark when they could get

out the same way they got in—without being seen. The weapons got muddy. The automatic rifles jammed. During the afternoon a German aid man came right by the last man, Boell, seemed to look right at him but kept on going. Apparently he didn't report them because the Germans made no attack. Later another German medic and six litter bearers came by carrying a German who had been wounded that morning accompanied by two walking wounded and stopped not 20 feet from Boell for a rest. From there they could see at least four of the patrol lying in the stream, who by now felt sure of receiving at least an artillery barrage. However, still no barrage came.

During the day an aerial reconnaissance of the area of attack was made in the tiny planes used by the artillery to direct fire to locate the missing men and a smoke screen was laid in the saddle in the hope that they could escape under its cover, but no trace of the men could be seen.

"It was the longest eleven hours and forty-five minutes I ever spent," said Moisa. "I thought my watch wasn't running. If the Germans had attacked in the daytime they would have been able to take us. There were Jerries on both sides because we were behind the Kraut lines. We thought some of our troops would come after us during the day but we were glad they didn't. We also expected them to throw in something of a barrage which they did at dark so we started planning. . ."

The plan was to back down the streambed as soon as darkness permitted with the two wounded men in the middle. Both Amburg and Grisi said they could make it. At 1845 Amburg got Lieutenant Eells' personal belongings and the group prepared to leave. They looked up and saw two Germans to each side of Amburg.

"Hello. Come out," they said. Boell, who understood German, later translated. Moisa raised his rifle and fired. One German fell back and his helmet flew off. The other retreated a short distance and threw a grenade which hit Moisa's leg and bounced away. As it went off the sergeant covered his face with his hands and received powder burns and small fragments in them. The German jumped into the streambed between Amburg and Moisa, tossing another grenade which hit the top of the bank and exploded harmlessly. Moisa and Brooks each pulled the pin and threw a grenade at the German, Moisa's exploding right at the German's feet. Attracted by the noise, more Germans arrived on the scene, cutting the wounded Amburg off from the remainder of the now withdrawing patrol.

The seven men moved down the streambed in the darkness then cut back sharply up the hill while the Germans kept firing up the draw. Moisa twice heard what he thought to be Sergeant Amburg's rifle firing rapidly and Grisi said that he could see Amburg moving down the gully when the rest of the group cut back up the hill.

"The lieutenant had told me there was a minefield there, but I didn't tell the others," said Moisa. "We ran up another small creek and Grisi, who had lost quite a bit of blood, began to fall to the rear. We took three breaks then finally came to our own machine gun group." The American outpost which had been on the alert for the missing men first saw four coming over the saddle between the two hills then two more helping the wounded Grisi.

"When we got over the saddle we could still hear an M1 firing," remarked Morales. The others too said that they heard either two or three clips of eight fired from an M1 as they went over the crest of the hill towards their own

outpost, and figured that Sergeant Amburg was covering their escape. At 2345 a patrol from Company C in search of the missing Amburg, went out to the lower streambed in which the isolated group spent the day but no trace of him was found after a three-hour search. The next day the artillery planes scouted for him but they too failed to find any trace. Total casualties for the Pine Tree Operation were 1 killed (Lieutenant Eells) 7 wounded, and 3 reported missing. Of the three missing, Amburg was later found to have been taken prisoner and eventually returned to the United States.

During the day while he was waiting for night to come, Amburg later related, he had taken everything that Lieutenant Eells had on him with the intention of getting back with it that night. He never did know what kind of personal papers he had as they were later taken from him without his having a chance to look at them.

Amburg was preparing to make his way down the ditch to where the rest of the men were when the Germans started closing in. He heard them coming and called Moisa so that he would know. Then he started throwing grenades. The first German he saw was about 15 yards away above, looking right down his throat. The German cut loose with a machine pistol the shots going between the sergeants legs, under his arms, and all around him, but not hitting him. The hand grenades must have been effective because everything got quiet for awhile, Amburg said, and he started backing again down the ditch to where Moisa was keeping watch to the front. He hadn't moved but a few feet when someone behind him said "Hands up!" He took his time turning his head, realizing that his time was up. The German said "Come, come." His weapon was about three feet from the sergeant's head. He had moved around and gotten behind Amburg in the ditch.

Amburg had only one hope then, so he told the German and showed him that he was wounded in the leg and couldn't walk, although he kept hoping that the rest of the group would drive the enemy back. He did not realize that they had pulled out which, he said, was the right thing for them to do. Two more Germans joined the first. They dragged Amburg by the arms up to the bunker they were staying in where he counted nine of them and four that had been wounded with grenades; one seriously in the head, one with a bad leg wound, and two others with slight leg wounds. Amburg spent about fifteen minutes here while they dressed his leg and found out that he could walk, after which they started for what Amburg supposed was the platoon command post because it was the first one back. Here the Germans started questioning him. The sergeant told them what he was supposed to (name, rank, and serial number), but as he had all of the personal belongings of Lieutenant Eells and was wearing no stripes the Germans insisted that he was an officer. All Amburg could do was tell them he was a staff sergeant and that his name was Amburg not Eells. Dogtags proved the name but the Germans weren't satisfied with that. It had gotten dark when the fight was going on and they didn't know then that Lieutenant Eells was dead.

Before being taken to the rear Amburg found out how good the American artillery was. "They plastered hell out of that CP I was in," he said. When they left there they walked what seemed to the wounded sergeant at least ten miles stopping at two different headquarters where the prisoner was questioned each time. They passed places dug out of the mountains which seemed to Amburg like modern homes. He reflected that these would be taken when the



Many and ingenious were the contraptions for showers. Some even had hot water and privacy—to a degree.

push started but that it was going to be hard. After a while they got into an automobile and drove to the other side of Bologna where they spent the rest of the night. The next day brought more questioning. The Germans threatened to shoot him and other things too, if Amburg didn't talk, but one guard told the sergeant not to tell them anything. Amburg was never mistreated, just threatened.

From night to night for four nights he was moved farther behind the German lines until he reached a hospital where he stayed twelve days, being treated well and getting plenty to eat. After leaving the hospital Amburg was taken to Mantova where he saw the first Americans since being captured. There were approximately 500 prisoners of war there, British, American, Italian, Russian, and French. The food was not good but they received a few Red Cross packages. About 24 April the Germans were forced by the advancing Allies to move the prisoner-of-war camp north again. They went in buses in which everyone had a seat, traveling at night because of American planes, and ended up about twelve miles from the Austrian border. Here the camp remained until the end of the war, a patrol from the 85th Division being the first to reach it on 4 May, two days later.

The night of the return of the patrol members also saw one of the Company L outposts near C. Ronca Coresa attacked by an estimated eight to ten man German patrol. In the ensuing mortar and grenade fight the position was overrun, two of the Company L men wounded and the rest badly shaken up. Defensive fires were called down on the area and the reserve Company L pla-

toon, commanded by Lieutenant Victor E. Howard, moved forward to counter-attack, driving off the enemy and retaking the position by midnight, less than two hours after the initial attack. By 0045 communications were again in and the outpost restored. The number of enemy casualties could not be determined.

The following day, which started out with excellent visibility and resulted in long-range artillery fire on enemy targets in addition to bombings by the Air Force in the Po Valley, but which clouded up in the afternoon, Company I reported that two Germans approached their command post, were challenged, and rap. An extensive search was made for them but they had disappeared in the brush. Just after noon Lieutenant Kenneth G. Kirkpatrick, commanding Company M, captured one of them in the draw leading west from the company mortar positions. This prisoner could speak only Russian, had been put in the 3d Battalion, 19th Artillery Regiment (Motorized) and had walked all the way from Imola, a straight-line distance of 15 miles, to surrender. He didn't know what had happened to his companion.

Word was received 13 March that the Regiment was to be relieved the nights 21-22-23 March and that as much information as possible was to be translated into Italian. The Regiment would move back to the Sieve River Valley for training purposes as instructed in the movement order which arrived 17 March.

The Regimental headquarters, less the tactical group, plus Service Company, moved to the training area in the vicinity of Barberino di Mugello by motor the afternoon of 21 March. Antitank Company followed that evening as did the 1st Battalion when relieved by a battalion of the Speciale Regiment of the Italian Legnano Group. Cannon Company moved at 0500 the next morning with the 2d and 3d Battalions being relieved by battalions of the Speciale Regiment the night of 22-23 March and immediately entrucking for the vicinity of Barberino. The platoon of Company C, 100th Chemical Mortar Battalion, and Company C, 752d Tank Battalion, remained in support of the Italians who were attached to the 91st Division for the period on line.

The move to the Sieve valley was made without incident, the Regiment closing into the new area early the morning of 23 March and getting to work pitching the hospital ward tents which were allotted one to a platoon. The bivouac area was to the west of Highway 65 and Villanova along the Villanova-Barberino road bordering the Sieve River.

CHAPTER 7

THE PUSH NORTH

IN DRIVING back down Highway 65 the GIs of the 363d Infantry passed the stockpiles, ammunition dumps and installations which had been moved forward during the winter for the offensive in the spring. A gasoline pipeline had followed the advancing front lines forward and had been joined by another and another to save trucks which otherwise would be needed to transport the fuel, thereby releasing trucks for other purposes. All winter during the static warfare mortar and cannon ammunition had been carefully conserved for the offensive which must come some day to end the war in Italy. Because of the Ardennes offensive in Belgium and Luxembourg by the Germans the supply of practically all implements of war had been reduced in Italy.

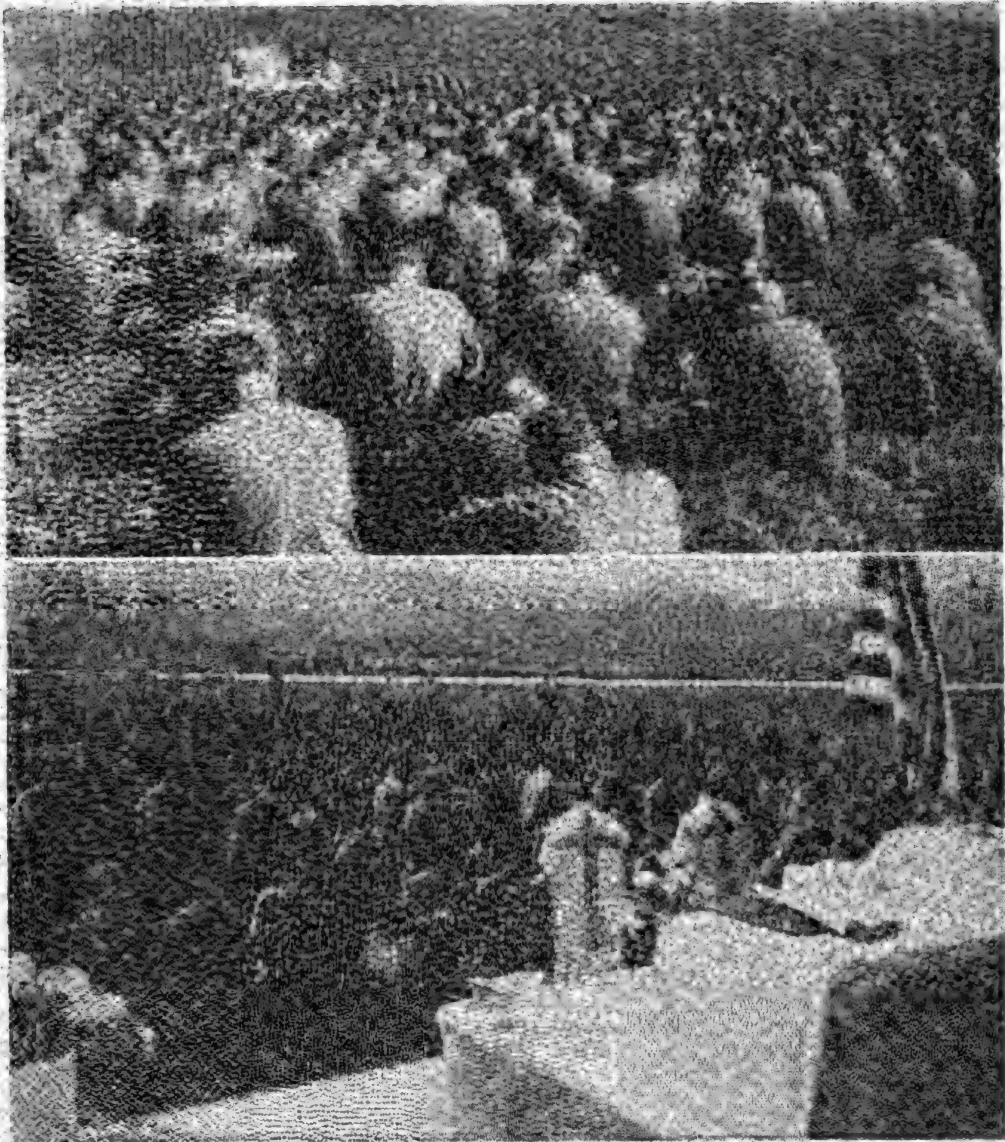
Now it was spring and the offensive was not far off. At the end of the pipelines in Radicosa Pass gasoline cans covered acre upon acre of the leveled-off hillsides, ready to be taken forward to the front-line units. Ammunition was plentiful, stacked in dumps near the highway and easily accessible. Mountains of rations were piled in other dumps. The armor had moved well forward up the highway and engineer units complete with bridges bivouacked nearby waiting for D-day.

No one needed a field order to tell him that the big jumpoff was not far away.

The training at Barberino in the Sieve Valley was pointed toward the day of the attack, the breakthrough of the defenses which the Germans had been improving since the last of October five months before, and a rapid infantry-armor thrust across the Po River Valley. Conferences, demonstrations and practical work with tank and infantry assault teams were arranged with the tankers who would be with the regiment in the attack, a plan which proved to be of inestimable value later on when the push materialized. Work in all phases of the attack included company raids, rapid movements and control, aggressive night patrolling, jumpoffs from the line of departure, movement through mine-fields, seizure of objectives, attack of houses, close combat including the bayonet, combat orders and orientation.

A schedule for showers was set up with each company having a half day per week open time to be used for that purpose. Nightly moving pictures were shown either at the 1st or 2d Battalion areas, both of which had natural outdoor amphitheaters. A softball league was formed and passes were available to the rest centers at Montecatini, Florence and Rome. Easter Sunday was 1 April, marked by typical warm sunny spring weather which had blessed the training and free time with a noticeable absence of rain. Religious services during the week were climaxed on Easter morning. Chaplains Richard E. Walton and Tim W. Holbrook conducted Protestant services at 0930 for the regiment while a Catholic solemn high mass was celebrated by Chaplains Joseph A. Lenk, Peter Duignan (91st Division Artillery) and J. C. Russell (15th Field Hospital) at 1100 in the same area. Colonel Magill spoke at both services. After dinner D'Artega and his all-girl orchestra, a USO musical and variety show which had been playing at the Apollo Theater and Fifth Army rest center in Florence, entertained the Regiment. A stage of Bailey bridge sections was constructed by the engineers in the 1st Battalion area for the occasion.

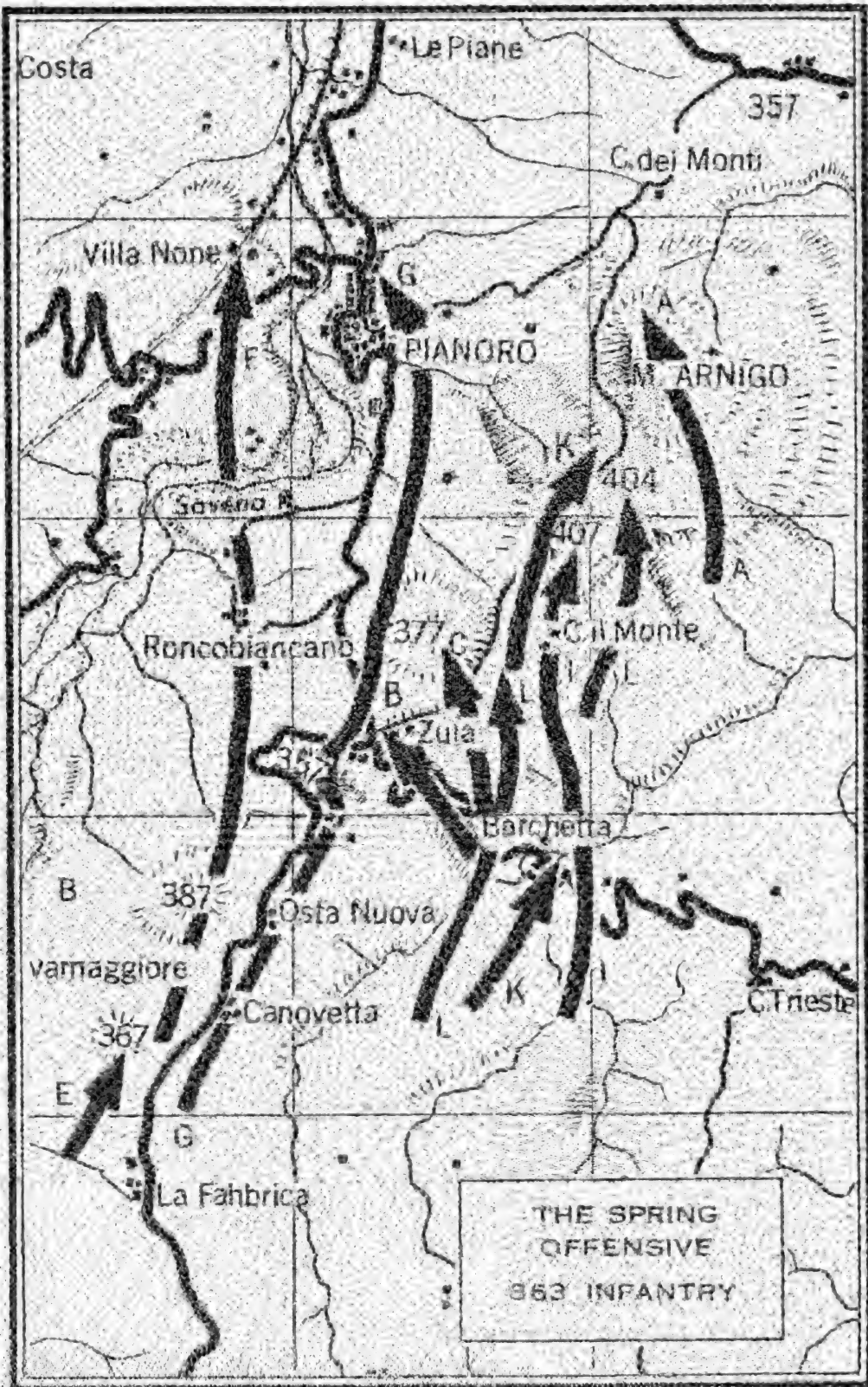
The training continued until 7 April when the order was issued instructing the Regiment to relieve the 362d Infantry astride the highway north of Liv-



Easter religious services, both Protestant (top) and Catholic (bottom), were well attended.

ernano the night of 9-10 April. After moving up by truck the 3d Battalion occupied the right of the sector, the 2d Battalion the left, while the 1st Battalion remained in reserve to the west of Querceto. The 363d Infantry found itself in the same sector it had occupied five months earlier when the drive up the highway had stopped, except for an all-important shift to the west which included the highway in the regimental zone. This sector's west boundary ran generally north-south 800 yards west of the highway, the other boundary running parallel about 1500 hundred yards east of the highway. The battalions were separated by the Rio Cavinzano, a stream which flowed north on the eastern side of the highway until it passed through the town of Zula on the highway and curved right to include the larger town of Pianoro in the west, or 2d Battalion sector, before veering across the highway to the northwest.

The attack order attached the 757th Tank Battalion less Companies B and



Throughout the five months of cold fighting when the front lines did not move an inch, the 363d held every sector along the territory shown, at different times. During this static warfare between offensives, defenses were strengthened and patrols were active nightly.

C; one company of the 804th Tank Destroyer Battalion; Company B, 100th Chemical Mortar Battalion; and the 1st Battalion, 133d Infantry Regiment of the 34th Division. The job of this last outfit was to occupy Mt. Arnigo, the last regimental objective in the first phase of the attack, and after its capture, to take over parts of the right, or 3d Battalion sector, thus aiding the 363d Infantry in its movement to the northwest where the sector crossed the highway. The 347th Field Artillery Battalion; Company C, 316th Engineers; and Company C, 316th Medical Battalion, were in direct support of the Regiment. Air missions could be obtained through the air-ground liaison officer, "Rover Joe."

The highway up which the 2d Battalion was to attack followed a ridge line to the town of Zula and the lateral road; from there 1000 yards beyond the most forward outposts the ridge continued northeast on the east of the highway while the road itself curved down and ran along the western slope of the ridge descending near Pianoro to the Savena River Valley floor and following the stream north towards Bologna seven miles away—in sight from the higher peaks in the vicinity. At Villa Nove, several houses overlooking Pianoro from the west side of the river and highway, the Florence-Bologna railroad emerged from a long tunnel and generally paralleled the highway north.

The 363d Infantry, even before it had come back to the line for the push, had been given the job of making the main effort for the Division by attacking up and clearing the highway, the main and practically the only supply route forward. This entailed taking the high ground, the ridge along which the road ran, and the extension of the ridge after the road cut off to Pianoro and the north where it commanded the highway and Pianoro up to the highest part and objective, Mt. Arnigo. The objectives leading to Mt. Arnigo and the town of Pianoro were echeloned along this ridge cutting diagonally across the highway north of Livergnano. In the 2d Battalion sector on the left along the highway were Hill 367 (objective 1) the southern slope already occupied by elements of Company E; Hill 387, 400 yards north on the ridge (objective 2); Hill 357 an equal distance farther north where the road made a hairpin turn to go around it (objective 3); the town of Pianoro 1200 yards north on the highway (objective 7) the ultimate objective in the first phase of the 2d Battalion's attack.

On the right of the Regimental zone the 3d Battalion's foremost elements were located generally at the end of the ridge running parallel to the highway ridge up which they had attacked nearly six months before over the escarpment. This meant that the battalion would have to fight its way across the Rio Cavinzano and the low ground at Barchetta and up onto the ridge along which the objectives lay. These were the town of Zula and Hill 377 (objective 4) just northeast of the 2d Battalion's objective in the bend of the road, Hill 357; Hill 407, 500 yards farther on the ridge (objective 5) and Mt. Arnigo (objective 6) separated from Hill 407 by a saddle called Hill 404.

Mt. Arnigo was the answer to the whole attack. Situated as it was as the last high ground on the northeast-southwest ridge line, the mountain not only commanded Pianoro, the highway to the south, and the ground to the south and west including the Savena River bed for miles, but also controlled the terrain over which the infantry would have to attack from the lateral road north on the east side of the ridge line, the Rio Cavinzano bed and the naked rolling slopes leading up to the objectives on the ridge. With this knowledge it was natural that the mountain should be the principal objective of the main effort

of the Division's attack. When Arnigo fell the town of Pianoro just west of it and behind the ridge would be untenable, because Arnigo looked right down upon it and for the Germans to remain inside the town and have American fire poured down on them would be plain suicide. With Arnigo and the town cleared of enemy the highway would become usable as the main supply route north, and as the ground from Arnigo fell off into the beginning of the Po Valley to the immediate north it again would not be good terrain for the enemy to defend and the main road to Bologna and the Po Valley would be opened. Furthermore the fall of Arnigo would open the back door to Mt. Adone facing the 361st Infantry to the west because Arnigo looked down upon the German-held territory behind Adone.

Arnigo was the last mountain between the 363d Infantry and the end of the war.

Facing the 363d Infantry and defending the ridge were elements of the German 65th Infantry Division composed of the 145th, 146th, 147th Regiments, a fusilier battalion and possibly an engineer battalion as fighting troops. The 91st Division intelligence summary issued prior to the attack reported that according to one prisoner taken from the unit, all rifle companies were re-organized into two platoons of 28 men each. One of these platoons was called the assault platoon and was equipped with machine pistols; the other platoon had three light machine guns. It was attempted to have as many *Faustpatronen* (rocket grenades for use against tanks) as possible with each company. A heavy machine-gun platoon operated under battalion headquarters and the anti-tank guns were replaced with bazookas, while the fusilier battalion had been given more armament and assumed purely an infantry function. This division was one which failed to halt the breakout from the Anzio beachhead. It had fought a delaying action past Rome and the Arno River to the position along the Arnigo ridge where it had been since the previous October when the Allied push was held up, with frequent periods out of the line. During its appearances at the front the 65th Division suffered heavily in losses but the flow of replacements seemed to be sufficient to restore the desired strength to the organization.

The 91st Division's plan of attack called for the 363d Infantry on the right to make the main effort, adjacent to the 168th Infantry, 34th Division, to the east, securing Mt. Arnigo while the 361st Infantry on the left of the Division sector would exert pressure on 655-meter-high Mt. Adone three miles to the southwest of Arnigo and envelop it from the northeast. With this first phase of the attack completed, it was to continue the attack north with two regiments abreast without pause, on II Corps order. On the left of the 91st Division was the 88th Division.

D-day was set at 16 April; H-hour at 0300.

From the time that the Regiment occupied the positions on line the night of 9 April, activity was confined to the perfection of fire and attack plans; the removal of friendly minefields as far forward as possible; the preparation of both Highway 65 and the route from Ontanetta to Barchetta by Company C, 316th Engineers, so that armor could be brought forward to the front lines; and constant aggressive patrolling to determine the strength of the enemy, the location of his units, and to keep advised of the possibility of an organized German withdrawal prior to H-hour.

Artillery fires began the night of 11 April when Corps and Division Artillery expended 2484 rounds as the beginning of a week-long series of deceptive bar-



This GI removes a demolition charge placed by the retreating Germans in a bridge a half mile south of Pianoro.

rages to confuse the enemy as to the time and place of the attack which they could not help but know was coming. After the preparation, flares were sent up to simulate the signal for attack. All the fires of the Division were massed to support the infantry. The three battalions of 105mm howitzers of Division Artillery were augmented by fires of the 757th Tank Battalion; one company of the 804th Tank Destroyer Battalion; one company of the 100th Chemical Mortar Battalion; and one battery of the 432d Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion. The Cannon Company and all mortars and machine guns of the reserve 362d Infantry were initially emplaced for the maximum support of the two attacking regiments. In addition to these the Division shared with the 88th Division on the left the support of the 423d Field Artillery Group (Corps Artillery), made up of 155mm "Long Toms," 240mm and 8-inch howitzers. All these fires were coordinated, with each gun having targets and each target, known or suspected, being covered by fire. Maps of enemy positions and emplacements were kept carefully up to date with flash reports and aerial photographs.

Too, the jumpoff was also to be supported by air attacks. On 15 April 756 heavy bombers were to bomb targets along Highways 65 and 64 to the west, while 300 mediums bombed enemy gun positions in the sectors of the 88th and 91st Divisions. The first day of the attack, 16 April, the heavies were to repeat while concentrated fighter-bomber attacks were to be made on Mts. Arnigo, Adone and Posighiano southwest of Pianoro. First priority for air missions

was accorded to the Division on the first day of the attack and the air-ground liaison jeep, Rover Joe, was assigned to each of the two assaulting regiments.

While the engineers were working on the highway to make it ready for the advance of the armor to support the infantry's attack, and also on the Ontanetta-Barchetta road, the 3d Battalion was ordered to secure the tank and foot crossing occupied by the Germans along the lateral Zena-Zula road at Barchetta on D minus 2. This was a bridge across the Rio Cavinzano which was known to have been blown and must either be repaired or a bypass constructed by the engineers so that on D-day tanks could move forward with the infantry. With the purpose of securing a bridgehead to enable the engineers to work, Company K jumped off from C. Torriani at 2230 the night of 14 April to capture the town of Barchetta and the crossing site.

With preparatory machine-gun and counter-mortar fire placed before them, the three rifle platoons advanced down the ridge line to the bridge site, each with a radio connecting it to company headquarters and with one another. Lieutenant Lewis E. Shain's 2d Platoon moved along the west streambed side of the ridge while Lieutenant Leroy A. Bastron's 1st Platoon moved down the east side, followed by Lieutenant William M. Tisdale's 3d Platoon and a platoon of Company C, 316th Engineers. The two leading platoons each dropped off bazooka teams as they crossed the lateral road to guard against a German tank attack from the flanks. One platoon moved forward past Barchetta to the high ground and house northwest of the bridge site, the other platoon to the high ground to the northeast. The 3d Platoon moved into the town of Barchetta clearing and occupying the booby-trapped houses there. The entire advance was made in single file by platoon, each coming in under the barrage shooting and tossing grenades. Enemy resistance was soon overcome and six Germans captured. Twenty-three German dead were later found in the area. Immediately after entering the town the platoon received heavy enemy machine-gun, mortar, rifle and artillery fire which caused some casualties. Total Company K casualties for the operation were 17 wounded, 7 of them litter cases.

The engineers who had accompanied the attack made a reconnaissance that same night and determined that it would be necessary to put in a culvert and make a fill out of the 50-foot vertical banks by means of a bulldozer. The bridge was completely gone. Plans were made to do so the following night as dawn was fast approaching and it was impractical to work a bulldozer within 200 yards of the foremost infantry in broad daylight.

With artillery fire attempting to muffle the sound of the bulldozer, the engineers, preceded by a mine-sweeping team and protected by a security group from the reserve 1st Battalion under Lieutenant Clarence E. Ripley, moved up as close as possible during the afternoon, and after dark to the crossing site. They began installation of the portable culvert brought with them, several times drawing mortar fire because the sound of the motor wasn't completely muffled by the artillery. After they had labored all night it became evident that the job could not be finished by daylight. Leaving the bulldozer by the crossing all day the engineers continued the work during the following night under additional cover of the attached tank destroyers, again receiving heavy mortar fire. The bulldozer was hit but not put out of action. The crossing was completed for use by tanks before noon of D-day.

By dark, 15 April, all plans for the attack by the Regiment were completed. The offensive which was destined to break through the enemy's defense lines,

pour out into the Po Valley and end the war in Italy, was about to begin. At 0200 (H minus 1), 16 April, the tremendous artillery preparation began. For the first fifteen minutes a saturation of all targets was fired, with a half hour of close-in counter-mortar fires on 61 special targets, and fifteen minutes more on all targets, none of which received less than 30 rounds. All ammunition rationing was lifted and the Division Artillery alone fired 3911 rounds on the 162 targets; added to this was the Cannon Company's fires, mortar concentrations, Corps and adjacent unit artillery, tanks and tank destroyers, the Antitank Company weapons, 57mm guns and .50 caliber machine guns, the heavy machine guns of the weapons companies, and the mortars and light machine guns of the rifle companies themselves.

The first indication of attack was the gun flashes lighting up the horizon at 0200 as the preparatory fires began, then the brighter, closer bursts of flame as shells found their targets in enemy territory, the guns patterning across the face of the German-held hills and ridges, the mortars the rear. A .50 caliber machine gun opened fire a few seconds before 0300, its tracers, stitching red and orange across the jet-black sky, seeming to go slower and slower and almost stop as they reached the peak of their trajectory. Others joined. Then the heavy and light machine guns opened up, their bright tracers interweaving and crossing against the night.

It was H-hour.

The riflemen wet their lips, looked at one another in the dark, and moved forward across the Regimental front. To the left the 361st Infantry and to the right the 168th Infantry of the 34th Division crossed the line of departure at the same time. The 363d Infantry's Companies E and G along the highway and Companies L and I to the east of the highway were met by strong enemy fire and minefields as they began the advance. Company L, on the left of the 3d Battalion zone, lost its 1st Platoon leader before it had advanced a hundred yards towards its objective, Hill 377. Lieutenant Robert L. Queisser, III, stepped on a *Schü* mine after his platoon had passed through elements of Company K near Barchetta. At the same time Lieutenant Queisser's platoon sergeant, Joseph Cook, was injured and Lieutenant Fleming K. Hurley, Company M mortar observer with the platoon, assumed command, continuing the attack with Lieutenant James D. Anders' 3d Platoon on his left moving toward the ridge behind the artillery barrage. This barrage, however, did not prevent the enemy from laying down strong final protective fires, and as dawn came the platoons of Anders and Lieutenant Robert B. Rankin stopped and reorganized. Little progress had been made and contact with Lieutenant Hurley's platoon was lost.

Company I on the right of Company L was also moving slowly towards the ridge top and Hill 377 when the 3d Platoon hit a minefield. After painstakingly probing through the mines with bayonets and trench knives under machine-gun fire from the enemy-held hill and the nearby town of Zula, a process taking an hour and a half, the company gained another 150 yards up the slope toward the houses C. il Monte on the side of the ridge. Some self-propelled-gun fire was received from Zula and also a counterattack in small numbers just after dawn, but the company held its ground and threw the enemy back. Captain Frank T. Hyland, commanding the company, ordered the 1st and 2d Platoons around to the right under supporting fire from the 3d Platoon which also kept moving forward. Under the enemy fire the two flanking platoons moved up to a single

house north and east of C. il Monte by way of a draw. They then paused to reorganize.

Meanwhile Lieutenant Stanley F. Dosey of the engineers climbed on the bulldozer at the bridge site and although the front line was less than 300 yards from where he was working, finished the bypass and fill by himself in broad daylight under cover of a smoke screen. By 1130 the first tank was ready to try the new fill to see whether it would hold up or not. If it didn't there would be no armor support and the fight would be that much tougher. The tank stalled in the middle of the fill. If improperly handled the tank might tear the fill, rendering it useless. The motor started and the driver eased the tank carefully over the soft dirt and out onto the hard lateral road. The remaining four tanks in the platoon followed without difficulty.

The first intermediate objective of Company G, attacking in the 2d Battalion zone along the right side of the highway toward Pianoro, was the houses at C. Canovetta. These houses were located on the highway where it passed Hill 367 and ran along the eastern slope of the ridge line from which much enemy fire had been received in the battle for the escarpment in October, and had been the scene of many hot patrol actions during the winter months. The houses Osteria Nuova and C. Casella were spaced at 400-yard intervals north of Canovetta along the highway leading to Hill 357 with the town of Zula just behind, an equal distance farther north at the junction of the lateral road. Company G, attacking with its 2d Platoon leading, took Canovetta without firing a shot, the enemy having abandoned it, but immediately came under a mortar barrage and from it suffered several casualties within an hour and a half of the jumpoff time. The 1st Platoon prepared to move through the 2d Platoon and push on to Osteria Nuova. Meanwhile Company E, attacking simultaneously along the ridge line across the highway, advanced slowly behind supporting artillery and tanks which had come up the highway to aid in the push. The tremendous shelling had set Hill 367, their first objective, aflame and the grass and brush on the hill burned brightly through the early morning darkness. With one rifle platoon deployed on the west side of the hill and another on the east a tank proceeded to the top at 0400 but was forced to return, not because of the enemy but because of the flames which threatened to set it afire also. As soon as the flames had burned out, the troops and tanks again moved forward, this time around the hill to a smaller knob on the northern slope. By 0545 Objective 1 had been taken. With the coming of daylight the exposed left flank began to receive heavy enemy fire. The company found itself unable to move forward beyond the hill taken in the hours before dawn.

The 1st Platoon of Company G, commanded by Lieutenant Charles W. Flesher, crossed one minefield safely as they approached Osteria Nuova. Then they hit a pillbox, the approaches to which were mined. Two men were killed instantly—one blown in half, the other's legs off clear to the hips—and several were wounded, among them Lieutenant Flesher. Nine more were wounded as the Germans lobbed grenades from the aperture on the lower left side of the highway. Trenches zigzagged down under the road and connected to a large room about 15 feet square dug inside the hill. Osteria Nuova was 200 yards north. Staff Sergeant Imler Hiatt, Staff Sergeant James L. McDermott, Staff Sergeant Wayne A. Rosenberry, and Private First Class Glen N. Rudy charged the pillbox. They threw four grenades and pumped twenty-four shots into the

apertures, killing all four Germans inside. There was a machine gun in the pillbox that never got a chance to fire.

After Technician Third Grade Dennis Plummer, company medic who had run to the first man hit while grenades were still falling, had fixed the wounded up, the platoon pushed on toward Osteria Nuova. As they approached the shattered house the advance elements were engaged with rifle grenades at first, then panzerfausts. The pockmarked area around the house was mined and fortified with barbed wire and the infantrymen had to jump from shellhole to shellhole to get close. A German opened up from a hedgerow just above the group with a machine gun.

Said McDermott, "I could hear the SOB work the bolt—it jammed."

The sergeant tossed a grenade up and over. The German took off and was shot. Two more Germans tried to run down from the house to get the machine gun into action again. McDermott shot one in the stomach, the other in the arm. Both escaped back to the house. When it was almost daylight the platoon was able to see that a trench with overhead cover in parts surrounded the house. Apertures for firing were in the top. One German stuck his head up and fired several burps from a machine pistol. The riflemen opened up on him and he ducked down again. Several flares fired from the same hole followed. A bazooka failed to get him out.

Daylight came and the German, who proved to be an officer, would bob up and fire or throw potato-mashers. McDermott waited for him to try it once more and as the officer raised up to throw another grenade shot him between the eyes with a captured Luger.

Meanwhile the 3d Platoon of Company G came up and was committed around the right of the house in a flanking maneuver, whereupon the remaining Germans in the house gave up. Fourteen prisoners were taken, including the two who had attempted to get to the machine gun. Five more who had gone back and reoccupied the pillbox came in with a white flag after the house was taken. Another two came down the highway from Bologna driving a ration cart drawn by two horses. Private First Class Clyde M. Henderickson shot one of the horses, upsetting the wagon and spilling the rations over the road. The two men surrendered. At 1000 three more were flushed out of an adjoining pillbox. The prisoners were from the 145th Regiment, 65th Division.

The cellar of the destroyed Osteria Nuova came to be known as the "wine cellar." While the remainder of the house had been reduced to a pile of rubble, the underground portion was intact and was used as a bunker under which the Germans had dug another series of rooms. In the wine cellar Company G found enemy maps—Osteria Nuova was used as an artillery observation post—incidentally, the exact type maps that Company G and the rest of the Regiment were using, perhaps run off on the same press. These maps had all the 363d Infantry former positions charted, including the assembly area from which Company G jumped off in the attack. The 3d Platoon, Company G, after assisting in the capture of Osteria Nuova pushed on to the third house 400 yards farther up the highway, C. Casella, while the 2d Platoon now in command of Sergeant McDermott occupied the high ground just south of Casella, Hill 368. Neither objective was contested.

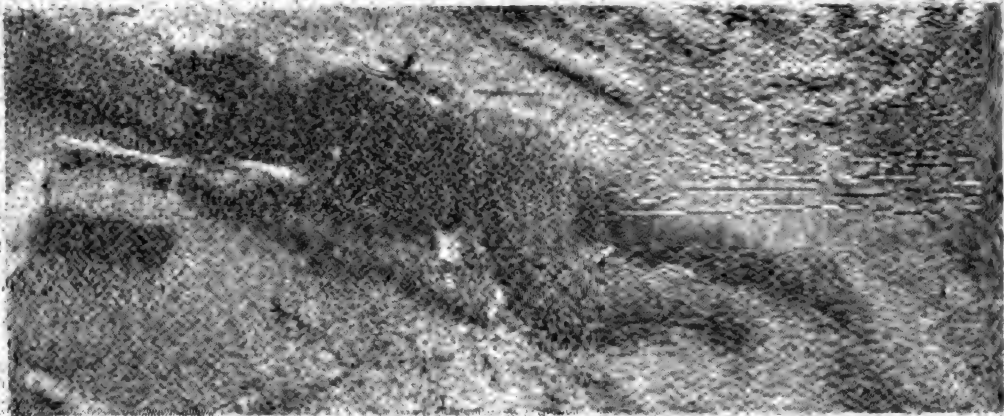
Company F, initially in reserve for the 2d Battalion, moved up between Companies E and G but by 1300 all forward movement of the battalion was halted with an increase of enemy artillery and mortar fire and because the com-

panies, with the exception of Company F, had expended almost all their ammunition in the morning's fighting.

Now that the tanks had crossed the fill at Barchetta and could support the attack with fire and movement and the two platoons of Company L, which had suffered many casualties, had reorganized, another attack to get on the ridge and capture Hill 377 was formed. With the infantry one of the tanks started up the road leading to Zula to knock out a machine gun firing from there. It hit a mine in the shoulder of the road, threw a track and turned over. A second tank cut off the right side of the road to avoid a similar fate and climb the ridge to Hill 377 across country along with one of the rifle squads. As the two platoons of Company L assaulted the alfalfa-covered hill the Germans intensified their machine-gun and artillery fire from the ridge. A German bazookaman in a foxhole in the forward slope of the hill spotted one of the tanks as it approached and hit it from 50 yards, the tank bursting into flame. Two of the tankers scrambled out and tried to help the third, a sergeant who was trapped inside. They were joined by Sergeant William K. Myers of Company L; the tank company commander left his tank and ran over to help but was cut down by the German machine gun from Zula before he reached the burning tank. The other crew members and Myers were taken prisoner before they could get the sergeant out of the tank in time to prevent his burning to death in the wreckage. Additional machine guns opened up from Hill 377, sweeping the two platoons, while artillery raked the area forcing them and the three remaining tanks to withdraw to their former position.

Company I, reorganizing near C. il Monte, was also joined by tanks and resumed the attack toward Hill 407. Moving swiftly across the open slope the tank-infantry teams approached almost to the crest of the ridge by 1430. One tank was knocked out by enemy fire, and the friendly artillery, not realizing that the attackers were so far advanced, covered the hill with concentrations. Before this fire could be stopped Company I and the tanks moved back down the slope to C. il Monte to avoid additional casualties on the naked hillside. When the fire finally raised, Captain Hyland advanced one platoon most of the way up the slope again to the two demolished houses there, C. Nova di Sopra, and located the remainder of the company in a draw just south of the houses on the slope by 1800. He was mortally wounded here shortly after.

In the attack on the hill the 2d Platoon, commanded by Lieutenant James J. Kasney, was among the assault elements. Six men—Sergeant Irving Diner, Privates First Class Melvin S. Pearson, Adolph A. Herr, Michael D. Pope, Joe C. Davis, and Charlie C. McLean—were with Kasney as they approached one of the German defenses, a communications trench approximately 100 yards long with connecting trenches branching out at 10-yard intervals. After dashing up the hill under the intense mortar, artillery and small-arms fire the Germans threw down the slopes at them, the seven dove into the trenches for cover only to find them occupied by the enemy. In the free-for-all which followed the Germans in the main trench opened fire with machine pistols at the same time that an artillery shell exploded within ten yards of the group, seriously wounding Lieutenant Kasney. After killing two Germans and while the other four returned the enemy fire from one of the branch trenches, Sergeant Diner and Private First Class McLean dashed out into the fire-swept main trench and carried the profusely bleeding officer to the comparative safety of a branch trench. Here they continued the fire fight, killing one more German, capturing



A dead German lies where he fell.

one and driving the rest from the trench. The men realized that the condition of the wounded officer was extremely serious, he was losing a lot of blood, and all litter teams were taking care of other casualties which the company had suffered. They set to work and improvised a litter from two small trees which were growing near the trench, and a shelter half, then carried him back to the battalion aid station 1000 yards to the rear before rejoining the company. Sergeant Diner was killed two days later.

Meanwhile the lost platoon under Lieutenant Hurley returned to Company L and reported that it had fought its way up to C. il Monte which it had occupied most of the day. Had the Company L commander, Lieutenant Harry L. Brown, known this it would probably have made a difference in the tactical employment of his platoons.

Darkness fell on the first day of the push with very little gain against stubborn resistance and strong enemy defenses. Casualties were high and only one of the objectives larger than company size had fallen. Objective 1 fell within a half hour after the jumpoff. Plans were made that night for Companies E and F to launch a simultaneous attack at 2300 against Hills 367 and 387, respectively, to extend the line across the highway north of Osteria Nuova, thus straightening out the front which curved dangerously on the left, then to continue the attack along the ridge. The 1st Battalion moved up under cover of darkness to get between the 2d and 3d Battalions and jump off at 0600 in the morning to capture Zula and Hill 377, passing through Company L. Company K, originally in 3d Battalion reserve at Barchetta, moved up to replace Company I in the forward position at C. il Monte, the latter going into reserve at Barchetta. The companies were now disposed across the Regimental front diagonally from southwest to northeast. Company E on the forward nose of Hill 367; Company F on the highway about 200 yards farther north; Company G's leading elements at Casella just short of Hill 387. Companies B and C preparing to pass through Company L generally along the lateral road; Company K in the vicinity of C. il Monte part way up the ridge to the north; Companies A and I in reserve in and around Barchetta. The 1st Battalion was now in command of its former executive officer, Major Alfred I. Davies.

At 0600 the morning mists were still hanging low over the Rio Cavimzano draw and up the ridge as the 1st Battalion on the left and the 3d Battalion on the right got ready to jump off. Objectives: Company B, the town of Zula; Company C, Hill 377 to the north; Companies E and F, Hill 407.

The simultaneous coordinated attack of Companies B on the left for Zula and C on the right for Hill 377 through the fog across and up the bare hillside was accomplished successfully by the material aid of two factors, fog and speed. Instructions prior to the attack summed things up: "We're just going to walk up that hill and keep on walking until we reach the top." It took Company B twenty minutes to take Zula; Company C was on top of Hill 377 by 0700, but it wasn't as simple as all that. Company C advanced swiftly with the 1st Platoon, commanded by Lieutenant Dale N. Boyd, on the left meeting on the slope mortar fire and *Schü* mines which caused light casualties. The 2d Platoon, commanded by Lieutenant Sandy Bassin, attacked on the right with the mission of going up a draw, clearing out a German company command post said to be located there, and outposting the right flank on top of the ridge. About 600 yards from the top they came under heavy mortar fire which killed 4 men in the platoon and wounded 10. They moved through the barrage and onto the dirt road running across their line of attack 200 yards below the crest of the hill. Fifteen men, including the officer, crossed the road and up on the ridge crest after being caught in enemy rifle fire but pulling out of it one by one.

Once the two leading platoons had reached the top they immediately set up positions and were spotted by the surprised enemy on the reverse slope. Artillery and mortar concentrations resulted, which lasted all day. The total Company C casualties amounted to 6 killed, 20 wounded. When the 2d Platoon was hit by the first mortar barrage as it ascended the slope the platoon aid man, Private Howard T. Johnson, dropped off to take care of the wounded. After moving the less seriously hurt to a defiladed spot, he collected field jackets to cover the more badly injured men. One man became hysterical when hit in the chest and started running down a bald spot on the hill. Johnson tackled him and took him by force to a defiladed place where he held him down and treated him. After arranging for the evacuation of all the wounded, Johnson made a thorough search of the area, and found still another seriously wounded man whom he first treated for face and chest wounds and then evacuated. It was nearly four hours before all the wounded were treated and taken back to the aid station, after which the exhausted Johnson joined his platoon on the hill.

Private Robert Garcia, who had been hit in the hip with a shell fragment, and Private Edward W. Franklin, were on their way back to the aid station to get additional litters and bearers to evacuate the wounded. Using a different route from the one they came up, they passed by a bunker when a German stuck his head out. Inside were three other Germans besides two Americans they had taken prisoner. The situation reversed, Garcia and Franklin went back with four Germans their prisoners, accompanied by the freed GIs, one of whom was Sergeant Myers of Company L, taken prisoner in the attack on the hill the previous day.

On the left, meanwhile, Company B had requested that artillery be lifted from Zula and beyond. Fifteen minutes later they had the town, killed one and captured 19 Germans, two of them wounded. Company B had not one serious casualty. With the fall of Zula and Hill 377, the second objective to be captured, tanks and tank destroyers were immediately moved into position where they could give direct fire support to targets on the left flank and front including Mt. Posigliano in the 361st Infantry sector, and the town of Pianoro behind the ridge. Most important of all was the foothold gained on the ridge

by the 1st Battalion which outflanked the 2d Battalion objectives, Hills 387 and 357.

At the time of the 1st Battalion attack, Companies L and K had jumped off for Hill 407 five hundred yards northeast of Hill 377 with Company M machine guns attached. By 0800 Company K, moving forward from C. il Monte, was receiving heavy mortar, artillery and machine-gun fire from the crest of its objective as it approached C. Nova di Sopra, the farmhouses half way to the top of Hill 407, supported by fire from the artillery, tanks and from the attached 1st Battalion, 133d Infantry.

The 3d Platoon, commanded by Lieutenant M. Tisdale, led the column, followed by company headquarters; the 2d Platoon, commanded by Lieutenant Lewis E. Shain; and the 1st Platoon, commanded by Lieutenant Leroy K. Bastron. After the leading 3d Platoon reached the houses at C. Nova di Sopra the 2d Platoon moved out toward the objective, Hill 407, with the 1st Platoon to the right and slightly behind. As the 2d Platoon went up the hill Shain moved out in front of everyone else and forged to the top of the hill. As they reached the top of the hill they engaged the Germans emplaced there. Fire came in from the front, from the rear of Hill 377 to the left flank, and from the right flank at Arnigo. Enemy 88s were firing on the peak from beyond Pianoro and a considerable number of mortar rounds were dropping on the hill. The remainder of the under-strength platoon struggled to get up the slope in the face of this to reinforce the small group which led. Casualties mounted. Lieutenant Shain was killed and all the men in the group with him were either killed or seriously wounded. The rest of the platoon was still strung out down the slope.

Meanwhile the 1st Platoon attacking to the right up the same hill had moved forward rapidly unobserved by the enemy to the base of Hill 407. Here they encountered a minefield 100 yards in depth. Lieutenant Bastron picked his way through with the other 17 men of the platoon following in his footsteps in single file, several times stepping within inches of partially uncovered mines. No casualties were suffered here. As they made their way up the side of the ridge to the saddle 404 separating Hill 407 and Arnigo, they reached a group of enemy emplacements. The platoon moved up into the saddle where the enemy observed them for the first time and opened fire with rifles, machine guns and mortars with such intensity that Bastron and his group were cut off from the remainder of the battalion for over twenty-four hours. The enemy fire prevented messengers from moving into or out of the area and it was impossible to carry water, rations, or ammunition to the platoon. Every attempt by the rifle companies of the 3d Battalion to take either Hill 407 which looked right down on the platoon 50 feet almost vertically, or the saddle 404, was repulsed.

The principal enemy fire came from a platoon of Germans occupying twelve bunkers stretched across the 125 yards of saddle, from the enemy machine guns on the northwestern slope of the saddle and from Arnigo 500 yards to the right. To prepare a defense Bastron placed all but six of his men in a row of trenches along the southern rim of the saddle so deployed that all approaches to the position were covered by rifle or machine-gun fire. The other six took up firing positions in a Y-shaped trench on the northern side of the saddle to the front where the ground dropped sharply off and the group commanded an excellent view of the enemy's communication trenches, foxholes, bunkers and

slit trenches on the reverse slope of the hill. All day the enemy swept the positions in the saddle unmercifully from the surrounding high ground with small arms and mortars. Every movement in the trenches drew sustained accurate enemy fire. When two Germans, unaware of the platoon's positions, moved up the hill towards the saddle the Americans let them get to within 20 yards of them. Then Bastron stood up and shot them both. Enemy fire was then immediately concentrated on the Y-shaped trench for over two hours while the seven men in it were forced to lie flat as machine-gun and rifle bullets splattered the walls, showering them with dirt and rocks.

At dusk the Germans prepared to counterattack and drive the platoon out of the trenches. Bastron saw them and alerted the rest. Firing steadily, the Germans in platoon strength advanced up the reverse slope toward the trenches, converging from three directions. One of them called out for the Americans to surrender. Bastron stood up in his trench and shouted "Come and get us, you bastards!" and ordered his men to hold their fire. The enemy skirmishers continued up the hill and closed into hand-grenade range. Again Bastron stood up. "Open fire," he commanded.

For fifteen minutes while the Germans threw grenades over the top of the ridge into the saddle, he stood there, he and his men firing and throwing grenades back at the enemy. The fight grew furious. An enemy bazooka shell made a direct hit in one of the trenches, killing one man and wounding two more; the only machine gun was knocked out. The enemy was receiving heavy casualties from the accurate fire from the trenches and after a time was forced back down the hill to his own positions to reorganize. This first attack repulsed, our infantrymen too reorganized, rearranging themselves so as to cover all the approaches and assume the fire missions of those who had become casualties. The supply of ammunition was very low—almost exhausted.

The Germans concentrated a heavy mortar barrage and swept the saddle with sustained machine-gun and artillery fire to prepare for the resumption of the attack. Again the enemy foot troops started up. Again the platoon in the trenches opened fire. For a half hour the enemy tried to reach the positions, advancing in short rushes, firing and throwing grenades as they got within range. Many times they appeared to have the trenches surrounded but each time the platoon poured a steady stream of fire into the enemy ranks and they were stopped from entering into hand-to-hand combat. Two hand grenades were left.

"There were seven men in the one position," said Private First Class Ben Kelley, Company I machine gunner, who had joined the platoon on the hill, "Staff Sergeant Francis J. Hockreiter, one of Lieutenant Shain's squad leaders; Technical Sergeant Byron Forrest, killed later that same day; Private First Class Morell P. Murray, machine gunner; Sergeant Jesse Taylor, Staff Sergeant George W. Swaschka, Private First Class Tommy P. Jaber, and myself. The counterattacks lasted at least four hours. As the enemy rushed us we fired until our ammunition was almost gone. Murray threw one of the two last hand grenades, wounding several of the charging Jerries and momentarily frightening off the German attack. Having only one grenade and very little ammunition left we were in a bad spot. Murray rolled mud balls and when the Germans got close would throw one. It was a clear moonlight night; the enemy could see the mudballs coming and thinking them to be hand grenades would run. He repeated this several times and finally threw the last grenade while the

other men fired the automatic weapons. The Germans gave up the attack finally. Next morning there were nine dead Germans lying where we could see them very well." When the last German attack was thrown back the platoon had only a few rounds of ammunition left—and their bayonets.

Meanwhile, to the left that day, Staff Sergeant James F. Brooks, a heavy-machine-gun section leader in the Company M platoon attached to Company K for the attack, was told to get one of his guns into position immediately to protect the company's exposed left flank. Brooks and the gun crew went out to look around for a spot to set up and found the only location for the gun was a bare ledge devoid of cover and concealment and exposed to enemy fire from the front, left flank and left rear. Four snipers kept peppering away at them. He and another man set the gun up on the ledge and Brooks assumed the gunner's job. About twenty minutes had gone by when Brooks spotted twelve Germans coming towards him up a draw to the left front walking erect and bunched together as if they wished to surrender.

The sergeant held his fire. The Germans continued on to within 15 yards of another machine gun belonging to Company C. Suddenly one of them reached into his clothing, pulled out a hand grenade and threw it at the emplacement while the rest scattered and hit the dirt. Seeing this, Brooks opened fire, killing seven and forcing the remainder to take cover in some bunkers that had previously been evacuated by the enemy. These men were later captured.

While this was going on things were getting warmer and warmer around the gun. The snipers and enemy riflemen were harassing continually, inflicting casualties on both the machine-gun platoon and Company K. The platoon messenger, 25 yards to the rear of Brooks' position, was killed by a sniper's bullet. Others were hitting at the base of the gun's tripod and to both sides, and slamming into the small bank which protected the machine-gun position from the rear and right flank. The annoyed Brooks turned his gun on these Germans, especially those to the left front whose fire was particularly accurate, and soon forced them to dive for cover from his fire.

The gun itself was set up on the bare shelf four feet from the edge of a 15-foot cliff which caused the terrain for 100 feet in front of the gun to be dead space, out of the gun's beaten zone. Because of this dead space two Germans crawled up to the base of the cliff through the shrubs and grass, unseen by the sergeant, and began to set up a light mortar in its protection to help blast Company K and the machine guns in the vicinity from their positions. Hearing the movements, Brooks crawled to the ledge, looked over, saw what was going on, dropped two hand grenades on the two Germans and opened fire with his pistol. One was killed, the other escaped. Later Brooks happened to glance in the embrasure of the bunker not six yards from his gun and caught a glimpse of two more Germans who had sneaked in and were in the process of setting up a machine gun of their own.

He again drew his pistol and emptied it into the embrasure. Two more grenades followed. Another man came to help and the two entered the bunker to find one of the Germans dead. They dragged the other out and forcibly took him prisoner. The captured German once outside the bunker broke away and began to run down the hill in a dash for freedom. Brooks and the men near him opened fire and killed the escaping prisoner before he had run 25 yards. The next morning Brooks took three men with him and cleared out all the bunkers on the left flank of the Company K position, capturing 14 prisoners,



Reinforcements.

some the same men who had been sniping at the machine gun the previous day. All told, Brooks fired 1600 rounds of machine-gun ammunition, four clips of caliber .45 pistol ammunition, and threw four grenades. Nine Germans were known to be killed, an estimated 10 more killed or wounded, and 14 prisoners were taken with the aid of the three men. Brooks won the Silver Star for this twenty hours of action.

"How he ever succeeded in setting up a machine gun on that left flank I don't know," said Sergeant Henry B. Schoenig, also from Company M, "because there was nothing to protect him and the Jerries were really throwing in a lot of stuff. All of us who were there owe him a lot because if he hadn't discovered those two Germans who crawled into that bunker with their machine gun, I'm afraid many of us wouldn't be here to tell about it. I've been a machine gunner for two and a half years and Sergeant Brooks got more out of the gun than I ever thought possible."

"Keeping those snipers down was a wonderful job," added Corporal Leonard A. Wilson, "because from where we were they could have easily picked us off. I thought Sergeant Brooks had been hit a couple of times but he always seemed to come out of it all right. All of us on the hill with him are grateful to him because he did a bang-up job and saved a good many lives."

Company L on the right took a group of houses 250 yards to the east of C. Nova di Sopra without a fight and with the 2d Platoon, commanded by Lieutenant Rankin, on the left and the 3d Platoon, commanded by Lieutenant Anders, on the right, pushed on up towards the saddle 404 between Hill 407 and Arnigo. Advance elements of the 3d Platoon were being delayed by a sniper as they approached the saddle; the scouts were unable to pick him up. The 2d Platoon, however, was able to see the sniper and managed to work three men up to a position where the German was in a trench below them. The three, Private First Class John J. Sons, carrying an automatic rifle, Private Edward P. Beckler, with a rifle, and Lieutenant Rankin, threw grenades in an attempt to get the sniper out.

"We must have thrown eight or twelve grenades at him and fired six magazines of BAR ammunition when the gun failed to work. I stopped to clean it out when a Jerry machine gun opened up, shot the gun out of my hands and tore my pack," said Sons. "Jerry opened up from three sides and we had to lay off for most of the day. Every so often the Jerries would throw grenades at us and it wasn't until after dark that we could join up with the rest of the platoon farther down the hill."

The guns opening up from the saddle and Mt. Arnigo also held up the progress of the two platoons. The weapons platoon leader of Company L, Lieutenant Lyle L. Olson, came forward to find gun positions from which to support the attack at close range. With him were Privates First Class Hugh D. McLaren, Leo S. Waksmundzki and Charles A. Fishler, machine gunner, No. 2 gunner of a mortar squad now working with the machine gunners, and ammunition bearer, respectively. McLaren walked up to a cave on the side of the hill. A German poked a rifle out at him. McLaren tried to use his carbine but it wouldn't fire. He brought the butt up knocking the gun from the German's hand. Seven more Germans came out of the cave, surrendered, and directed the group to a bunker where 7 more were captured for a total of 15. Although the platoons were not able to advance any farther up the

slope of Hill 407 that day, they were successful in repulsing four enemy counter-attacks with combined rifle, machine-gun, mortar and artillery fire—the 2d Platoon one, the 3d Platoon three.

Company I had been alerted at Barchetta before dawn to be recommitted and given the mission of filling the gap between Companies L and K. By the time they had moved out reaching a point near C. il Monte a messenger overtook the company with orders for Lieutenant Hambrick, now commanding, to take the saddle 404.

The 2d Battalion meanwhile had jumped off at 0730 to the west on the morning of the second day of the attack shortly after the 1st and 3d Battalions. Company F in the center of the battalion sector between Companies E and G moved forward toward Hill 387, Objective 2, behind a terrific barrage by friendly artillery of all calibers up to and including 240mm howitzers which forced the enemy to either give up the hill or be annihilated. Company F immediately occupied the objective. Company G to the right was attacking simultaneously for Hill 357 to the north where the highway curved around it just south of Zula. With the capture of that town by Company B and the fall of Hill 377 to the immediate north to Company C an hour before the important objectives along the highway were outflanked, and with the heavy artillery concentrations laid on them plus the pressure of the rifle companies, little difficulty was experienced in forcing the enemy to give ground there early in the day. Company E improved its position on Hill 367; Company F on Hill 387; and Company G on Hill 357. After consolidation of the two latter newly won objectives the companies prepared to continue the attack up the highway to Pianoro the following morning at 0400.

The second day of the all-out attack had seen the German winter line begin to crumble. Objectives 1, 2, 3, and 4 had fallen. There remained Hill 407, the saddle 404, and Arnigo in the 3d Battalion sector; Pianoro in the 2d Battalion sector. Besides the fall of the objectives the echeloned Regimental front had been materially straightened, the 2d Battalion had advanced and cleared over 700 yards of the highway ridge, the 1st Battalion another 400, and the 3d Battalion had a foothold on still another 400 yards although the ridge in that sector was just as much in German hands as it was in American. Definite progress had been made; heavy casualties had been suffered.

The companies were echeloned across the Regimental front from southwest to northeast before the jumpoff the third day of the attack, 18 April, as follows: Company E on the extreme left on Hill 367; Company F in the vicinity of several unnamed houses on the west side of the highway near Hill 387 and 500 yards from Zula; Company G in and around C. Casella to the right of Company F; Company B at Zula; Company C on Hill 377; Company K, Company L, and Company I on the slopes of Hill 407 and the saddle 404. The day's objective for the 2d Battalion was the town of Pianoro; for the 3d Battalion, Hill 407, saddle 404, and Arnigo. To aid in the attack of the under-strength 3d Battalion on Arnigo (Company I had 45 men; K, 28; L, 35) Company A, which had not yet been committed to action, was attached, so that when the first two battalion objectives fell it could be thrown at Arnigo—the Sunday punch. With this plan in mind Company A, commanded by Lieutenant Joseph H. Foster, moved from the reserve area at Barchetta forward behind the attacking 3d Battalion companies to Maltempo and C. Nova di Sopra where they dug in and sent contact patrols to the other companies in the battalion.

Along with the 361st Infantry on its left the 2d Battalion continued the attack at 0400 against Pianoro with Company F on the left, Company G on the right, Company E in reserve, under an exchange of enemy and friendly artillery and a mortar duel, some of which landed in the midst of the two companies. Company F was west of the highway, Company G on the east. The attack moved slowly forward in the darkness while tanks were moving up the lateral road to Zula, swept the night before, to support the infantrymen. By the time Company F had approached a small draw 200 yards north of the house Roncobiancano in the Savena River bed 1000 yards south of Pianoro, the tanks were in position and firing in support of both battalions. Company G, moving north from C. Casella, passed through Company B at Zula and continued east of the highway towards the town as the right fork in a pincers movement.

Two hours after the attack of the 2d Battalion, the 3d Battalion attacked with three companies on line, Company A attached acting as reserve. Elements of Company K were at C. Nova di Sopra on the southern slope of Hill 407 but the remains of the 1st Platoon, commanded by Lieutenant Bastron, were still up in the saddle holding out, unable to get reinforcements. To the right of Company K, Company L, commanded by Lieutenant Harry L. Brown, moved out with a strength of 54 men to take Hill 407 by attacking to the east flank roughly where Bastron and his men had gained the foothold in the saddle. Company I was on the right of Company L also attacking the saddle. For two and a half days now the enemy had held this commanding ground with excellent observation of all American territory and maneuvers below them, and had been directing and controlling artillery, mortars and plunging machine-gun fire on the attackers causing as heavy casualties as the 363d Infantry had received in its over nine months of combat, including the breach of the Gothic Line the previous September. The understrength companies were now little larger than platoons, and the aid of the tanks which moved forward across the exposed fields and hillsides to support the attack was much needed. Company L moved down into a draw and around the east slope of Hill 407 in an attempt to get at the reverse slope from the rear where the enemy was entrenched. As it advanced through the draw enemy observers from the surrounding high ground, Hill 407 and Arnigo to the right front of the company, directed artillery and mortar fire on it and also on the tanks supporting the operation. Both Companies I and K found it inadvisable to continue the advance in the face of the intense fire from above them. Snipers were numerous, four Company L men being hit by this type of fire alone. The company, however, succeeded in moving around to the east slope below the saddle in spite of the enemy concentrations of fire which was being stepladdered back and forth in the draw, and had started up the hillside when the Germans on the reverse slope of Hill 407, now on their left flank, opened up with heretofore quiet machine guns, automatic weapons and rifle fire. Lieutenant Brown, who was ten yards in front of the company, called for his men to follow and moved directly toward the enemy positions. Some of the men followed him by rushes and crawling under the fire, firing steadily as they advanced, the group approached to within 50 yards of the emplacements where they were held up by four additional enemy machine guns which opened up from positions to the north of the hill. During the attack the intense barrages and small-arms fire of the enemy had killed 3 men of the company and wounded 27 more—approximately half the effective strength.

In order to reorganize, care for the wounded and reduce casualties, beside the fact that ammunition was running low, Brown ordered the rest to move to the south side of the saddle and get out of the damaging enemy machine-gun beaten zone. While protected partially from the four machine guns the group continued to suffer casualties from the artillery and mortars. Ten men were sent down the hillside to get more rifle ammunition and hand grenades while plans were made to take the hill as soon as they returned. By this time it was 1300.

Along the highway, meanwhile, the 2d Battalion was making progress. Although contact with Company G was temporarily lost, wounded returning along the evacuation channel thought the company had gained about 400 yards and was in the area somewhere around Cantoneria 2, the hostelry on the highway 500 yards south of Pianoro, and were meeting resistance. Actually after contacting Company B at Zula they moved north across the hills to the east of the highway and passed very close to the rear of Hill 407 which the 3d Battalion was attacking from the other direction. Just short of here the company drew fire from a group of about 30 Italian Fascists defending the sector and deployed further to meet them. The 2d Platoon, commanded by Lieutenant John L. McKay, and the 3d Platoon, commanded by Lieutenant Carl L. Blum, built up a skirmish line and advanced up the hill toward the Blackshirts by fire and rushes. After two or three of the Italians had been killed by rifle fire the rest retreated under machine-gun and grenade fire to a nearby cave, the Company G platoons following them with a stream of lead until they surrendered. Twenty-eight prisoners were taken and Company G, which had one man killed during the fight, remained on the positions.

The 1st Platoon of Company G, commanded by Lieutenant Joseph P. McCanna, which had been in reserve and had not entered the fight against the Fascists, then passed through and advanced to within 200 yards of Pianoro occupying the house across the highway from the town cemetery, and capturing two more Blackshirts, one of them a lieutenant, in the process.

Company F, jumping off from Roncobiancano at 1000, sent a patrol west to the Savena streambed to look for a minefree crossing site. The patrol found no mines and was followed by the 2d Platoon, commanded by Lieutenant Russell M. McKelvey, leading the remainder of the company which moved across the stream on an enemy built footbridge north of Roncobiancano and secured a small group of houses 500 yards southwest of Pianoro without resistance. The company command post which moved into the houses immediately after their capture, however, was subjected to a heavy shelling for over an hour from enemy tanks which later proved to be located half a mile farther north at Villa None overlooking Pianoro. From these houses the 2d Platoon pushed forward for Villa None where they came under fire from the three houses there, the trenches and dugouts surrounding them, and the mouth of the Florence-Bologna railroad tunnel just beyond in addition to the tank fire coming from the farmyard. Here they fought until dark without making much headway.

It was 1430 when the men who were sent for a resupply of ammunition for Company L returned, and Lieutenant Brown led his decimated group to an assembly area south of the crest of Hill 407. Plans had been completed to take the hill. At 1500 the artillery liaison officer adjusted one 105mm howitzer on the enemy positions. This was precision adjustment and changes in range and deflection were made in 5-yard steps because of the closeness of the Com-

pany L men to the enemy positions. For thirty minutes the one howitzer fired high-explosive delayed fuze into the enemy. Brown formed his men into a skirmish line and led them forward toward the enemy as the howitzer fire was lifted, shooting as they went. Through enemy small-arms and mortar fire concentrated over the top slope, the small force, Brown in the lead waving his .45, advanced and succeeded in reaching the top of the hill.

Even though the remnant of Company L was on top of Hill 407 firing and throwing hand grenades into the enemy holes the Germans there were still resisting and the grenade duels in and around the bunkers went on for fifteen minutes during which 9 Germans were killed, 15 captured, and the objective secured. Private First Class Odilo Novoa, who was one of the group which reached the top, says of the action:

Lieutenant Brown walked around to each one of us and told us that he had orders to take the hill. I know he was as tired as the rest of us but he kept moving around talking to the men. When the rest of the men saw him going they all followed him. It took a lot of nerve to keep on going straight into that enemy fire, especially after what we had been through, but Lieutenant Brown kept on advancing. If it hadn't been for him we wouldn't have taken Hill 407.

Brown was later awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for this action.

Within the fifteen minutes Company L was cleaning up the top of Hill 407 the enemy realized the importance of the ground and concentrated mortar barrages on the top in an attempt to dislodge the group from its positions, but Company L dug in and held on.

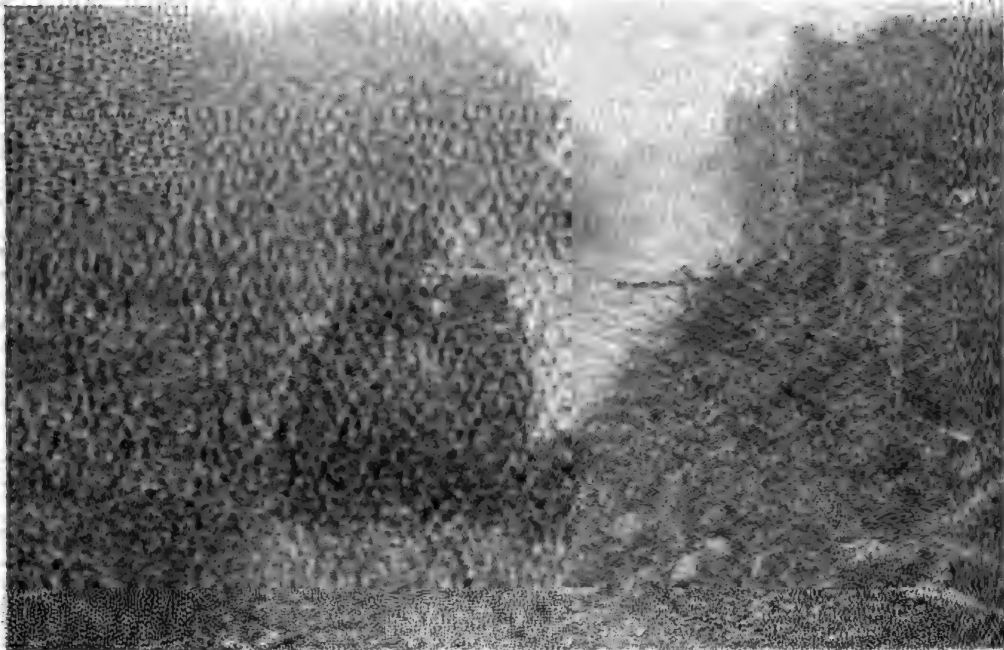
Company I to the right of Company L was simultaneously attacking, their objective the saddle 404. Lieutenant William R. Hambrick, company commander, says of the action:

We moved up on the hill until we contacted one platoon of Company K, and paused to get any information they might have. [These were the 17 men from the 1st Platoon, Company K, under Lieutenant Bastron, who were still holding out in the saddle.] We left them, the 1st Platoon leading, but hadn't gone far before a Jerry light machine gun from the saddle held up our forward elements. Grenades were exchanged between us and the enemy. Lieutenant John E. Callaghan was wounded and had to be evacuated under intense fire. An automatic rifleman moved up into action and the machine gun was neutralized. Temporarily the company was halted. Tanks were heard coming up from Barchetta so the company took cover as best they could and waited for them.

The tanks arrived and were employed as follows: one to go around the right of the saddle, and one to go straight towards it. Men were with both tanks for mutual protection. After neutralizing a few positions a German company command post was taken. Twenty-five Krauts were captured, five killed, and the position manned. The company was unable to advance farther because of machine-gun fire from a position on the hill in a line with Pianoro so we remained quiet trying to figure out a plan to attack towards Arnigo.

The phone in the German command post rang but as nobody was able to speak German the wire was cut. This brought all hell down—artillery, mortars and so on.

The tanks, meanwhile, had gotten to within 100 yards of where the Company K platoon of Lieutenant Bastron was entrenched. Bastron left the trench and crawled up under the enemy fire toward some of the enemy bunkers on Hill 407 and for two hours moved from bunker to bunker directing the fire of the tanks on the enemy positions. On two occasions when the tanks were unable to drive the Germans out Bastron went into the bunkers and killed or captured the occupants. When the enemy in a large bunker in the center of the other



Pianoro was pounded all through the winter. When it fell to the 363d Infantry's offensive, this is what was left.

positions tried to escape as the tank shells ripped into the emplacement. Bastron shot the first German out in the head and took the remaining 19 prisoner. He got six more out of other bunkers, and the Distinguished Service Cross for the entire action.

With the fall of Hill 407 and the saddle 404 Company A made ready to throw the punch at Arnigo at the end of the ridge. Arnigo was 400 yards northeast of Hill 407, 1000 yards east of Pianoro overlooking the town, and was composed of two peaks each of them also 407 meters tall separated by a small saddle. A dirt road cut east off the highway at Zula, bypassed Hill 377 and C. Nova di Sopra, crossed Hill 407 on its reverse slope, went through the saddle 404 and after skirting Arnigo's two peaks, turned west and descended into the Savena valley and Pianoro where it again joined the highway.

With four battalions of artillery, the mortars and machine guns of Companies D and M, and the tanks, besides six more tank destroyers from friendly M. Belmonte supporting the attack by preparatory fires and rolling barrages, Company A jumped off at 1930 as the artillery fires lifted. The 1st Platoon, commanded by Lieutenant Charles D. Tharp, led the column of platoons along the road across the ridge closely following under a screen of smoke the heavy artillery and mortar rolling barrage. About halfway up the first peak were zigzag trenches occupied by German machine gunners and riflemen pinned down by the tank and cannon fire. The 1st Platoon assaulted the trenches right behind the falling shells and dragged 18 trembling and shocked Germans out. The support fire was lifted—all but one tank which kept firing on the first peak and gave several Company A men nosebleeds from concussion. It was now 2000, a half hour since the attack had started, and the fires were shifted to the second peak while the company reorganized and a patrol investigated the houses along the road to the west. At 2015 they assaulted the second peak

only to find it deserted, thanks to the artillery barrage. They consolidated the newly won objective and prepared for a German counterattack.

Six Company A men were wounded in the attack. One of the pillboxes on Arnigo was an elaborate affair—probably a command post—with an office, living quarters and comfortable bunks. The capture of this position stopped much of the artillery and mortar fire which the Regiment had been receiving in its attack for the ridge and Pianoro.

The town of Pianoro itself had already fallen to Company G. But Company F was still fighting to the west of the town for Villa None also overlooking Pianoro.

At 2200 they were still bucking the strongly fortified houses and receiving telling fire from the two *Sturmgeschütze* tanks in the farmyard. The 1st Squad of the 2d Platoon set up a base of fire under direction of platoon leader McKelvey while the platoon guide, Sergeant Johnny D. Lake, grabbed a bazooka and five rounds of ammunition and went forward alone. The other two squads were dispatched in a flanking maneuver to try to get around the fortifications. The 3d Platoon, commanded by Lieutenant George R. O. Borrett, had moved into the center while the 1st Platoon, commanded by Lieutenant Howard E. Weaver, came up on the right flank when the 2d Platoon was originally stopped.

Villa None was on a high hill overlooking the destruction that was Pianoro on Highway 65. Beyond to the east, massive, rambling, pockmarked Arnigo dominated all in the vicinity. Looking down from Villa None to the river bed through Pianoro and the highway, then up to Arnigo. There was nothing but destruction. Villa None itself, composed of three houses, bomb- and shell-shattered, hit by thousands of rounds of small-arms ammunition, was surrounded by reveted trenches six feet deep, three feet wide. Looking toward Adone, Pianoro, the river, and Arnigo, Villa None commanded everything. Skeletons of trees only remained in what was once Villa None's front yard. A pillbox approximately 10 feet square made of 12-inch logs piled above a dugout was near one of the houses. Another, reinforced with railroad ties, commanded the road junction in front of the houses. Trenches led in two directions for protection in coming and going. Firing slits commanded the road, highway and streambed used by Company F for crossing and Company E for patrolling. The road running past the houses and down across the streambed to Pianoro had a 4-foot bank on the side nearest the houses where the pillboxes were located, and an almost vertical 50-foot drop into a ravine on the Company F side. Six-foot-tall hedges and an occasional tree grew on both sides. Two driveways branched off up to the houses.

Sergeant Lake moved alone up the road under the machine-gun and mortar fire from Villa None's emplacements and the shelling from the tanks in the yard, the bazooka in his hand, the five rounds of ammunition on his back. He moved past the German slit trenches and the fire coming from them. As one of the tanks came out of the driveway from the houses Lake found an abandoned slit trench on the ravine side of the road, got in it and prepared to fire. When the tank was about 25 yards away in the darkness he stood up to see better, took careful aim and squeezed the trigger. The rocket hit the tank but did no damage. The crew located him from the rocket blast and turned their machine guns on him but Lake coolly reloaded. A second direct hit did little material damage to the heavily armored vehicle but did serve to draw more small-arms and automatic-weapons fire from the nearby emplacements. A third hit set



Company G moves up Highway 65 south of Piatogo.

the tank on fire, causing a great deal of confusion among the crew, who attempted to turn the tank around and get it away from the danger in spite of the damage already done.

Lake followed up closely, disregarding the small-arms fire, and fired his fourth rocket, then his last, as the tank pulled back into the yard. The final rocket burst inside the tank. A terrific explosion followed. The huge assault gun—breach, barrel and all—was thrown 50 feet away, the front armor weighing several tons landed over 100 feet away, and parts, big parts, flew as far as 400 yards away. Bogies, engine and track parts were scattered throughout the area. The bottom of the tank and one track only remained on its side where it blew up. A second tank of the same *Sturmgeschütz* type between two of the houses was struck by some of the flying fragments and disabled, its gun still pointing south toward Company F, 34 rounds of ammunition still inside the hull. Lake won the Distinguished Service Cross.

With the tanks knocked out, the platoons closed in on the houses. At the same time about two platoons of Germans in bypassed fortifications launched a counterattack from the right flank of the 2d Platoon. Company F's commander, Captain Crowden, radioed Lieutenant Weaver's 1st Platoon to move up on that flank, and the fight continued all the rest of the night from those positions. In the morning they attacked with the 2d Platoon concentrating on the houses.

Private First Class Albert J. Willis, scout of the 1st Squad, jumped into the main trench and moved along until he came to a turret and one of the dugouts. Inside were two Germans, one a first sergeant with a machine gun. Willis fired

an antitank grenade and followed it with a full clip out of his rifle, dashed in and grabbed the German's gun. He tried to use it but it jammed. The German sergeant was wounded; the other escaped. After the first trenches had been taken the squads worked slowly and methodically to clean out the network of passages and dugouts and still keep the casualty numbers down. Knowing there were Germans beyond in the other emplacements German-speaking Staff Sergeant Henry A. Eisfeldt, 2d Squad leader, went forward and stuck his head into the beginning of one trench and yelled for the Germans inside to give him their attention.

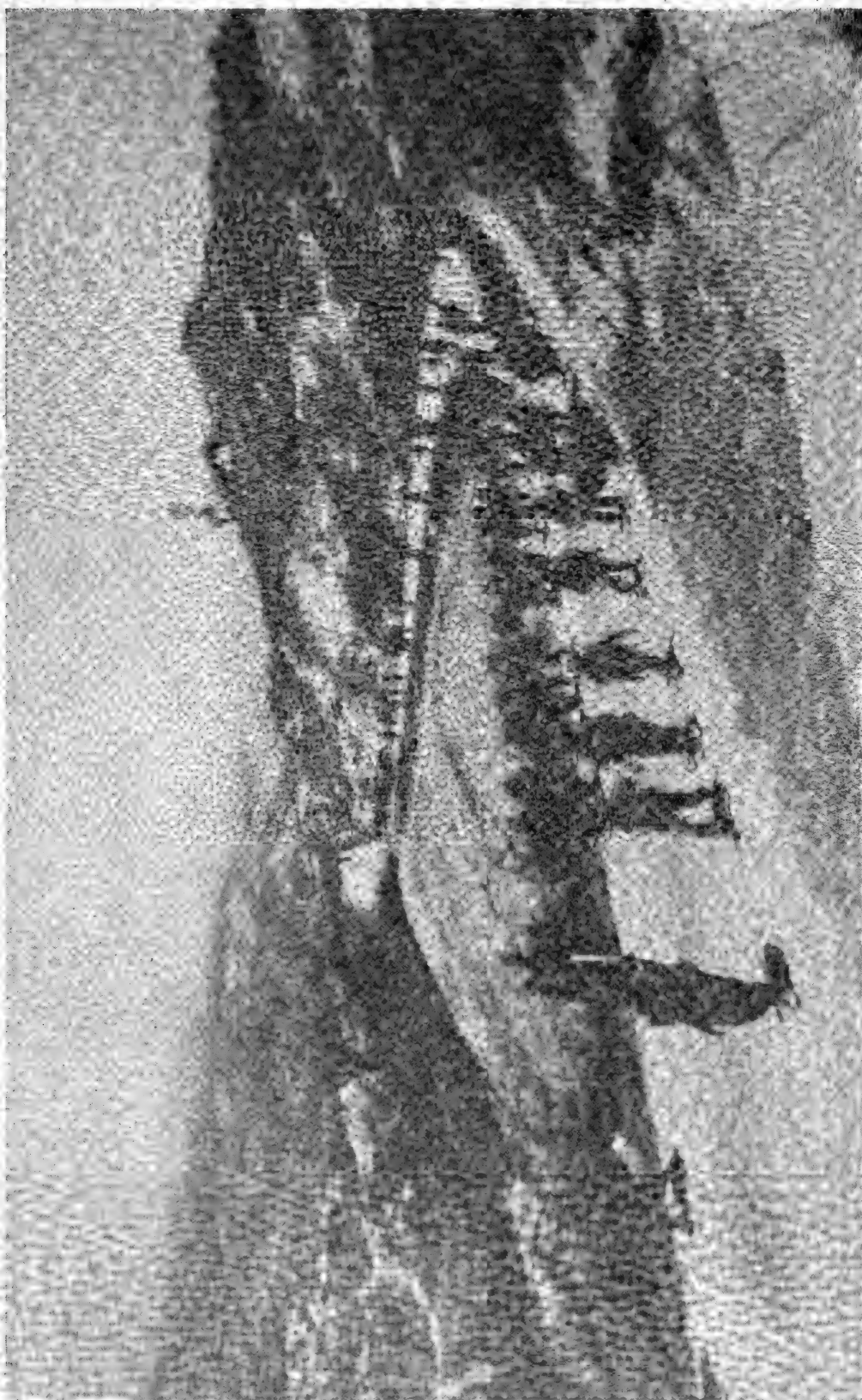
"We were going to take the place anyway, but I wanted to find out if they'd give up or insist on fighting it out," said Eisfeldt. His answer was a burst of machine-gun fire which luckily went over his head.

The two squad leaders, Staff Sergeant Marvin D. England of the 1st Squad, and Eisfeldt, got together with Lieutenant McKelvey and his platoon sergeant, Elmer J. Klove, in one of the cleared dugouts and mapped the strategy, then moved outside to put it into effect. The two squads advanced abreast toward the houses with the 3d Squad, commanded by Sergeant Glen Wells, covering the move by fire. Reaching the wall of one house they found six air vents and voices coming up from the dugout below. After dropping in several grenades Private First Class Oswald Albers, scout of the 2d Squad, ran to the dugout entrance and threw in a couple more while Private First Class William Rodriguez covered his movements. The remaining nine Germans still alive within surrendered.

With information received from these prisoners, another room was located about 25 yards away. Inside this room used as an aid station were eight more Germans. One litter patient was the same first sergeant machine gunner wounded by Willis's grenade. The German noncommissioned officer in charge surrendered without protest.

The previous night too had seen Company G, followed by Company E, move up and bypass the town of Pianoro to the east of the highway. Because of prisoner reports that Pianoro was heavily mined and booby-trapped Lieutenant Colonel John W. Angell, commanding the battalion, directed Company G to clear the town by patrols while the rest of the company covered from the flank. Patrols moved through the town reporting it cleared of enemy and set up a roadblock to the north across the highway. Throughout the day the 2d Battalion continued mopping up the vicinity and taking prisoners. Company F had elements as far north as the railroad tunnel 100 yards above Villa Nona while Company G patrols moved up the highway to Le Piane.

That same night, 18-19 April, the 1st Battalion, 133d Infantry, 34th Division, which had been attached to the 363d Infantry for the purpose passed through the right sector, took over Arnigo and the zone, relieving the 3d Battalion and continuing the advance to the north. On the morning of 19 April the Regiment became Division reserve, the 3d Battalion closing into an assembly area near Hill 361 south of Barchetta, Company A reverting to 1st Battalion control at C. Nova di Sopra. Companies B and D moved to the draw north of Valpiana, Company C to Barchetta. As soon as Arnigo had been turned over to elements of the 34th Division new boundaries became effective, squeezing the 363d Infantry sector out of the picture, the zone being absorbed by the 361st Infantry on the left and the 133d Infantry on the right.



The pursuit begins.

The fierce three-day battle to crack the German 1944-45 winter line saw as rough and bloody fighting as had ever taken place in the North Italy campaign. The fall of Arnigo and the adjacent high ground heralded the long-postponed break in the last fanatically defended German line in Italy. There were other lines to which the Wehrmacht planned to fall back and fight, such as the Po River, the Adige River, and the Brenta River, but when the time came the German armies were sent reeling north by swift punches and cut to pieces by the scissoring hedgehog tank and infantry tactics of the Allied Fifth and Eighth Armies. They had little opportunity even to fight delaying rear-guard actions, much less get set and defend a line.

Now began the pursuit and elimination of the German forces and the race across the Po Valley which was destined to end the war in Italy.



CHAPTER 9

THE PURSUIT ACROSS THE PO VALLEY

ON THE afternoon of 20 April, the day the 363d Infantry went into reserve, the 88th Division on the left of the 91st Division had advance elements on the outskirts of the Bologna suburbs near Sasso Bolognese after taking Mt. Mario, the high ground southwest of the city. Here the tributary Setta joined the Reno River whose broad, flat, stony bed was bordered by Highway 64 on the west side. Highway 6420 bordered the Setta on the east. The Reno Valley led due north to the Bologna suburb of Casalecchio di Reno, where it opened into the level fertile canal-lined Po Valley just west of Bologna. Highway 6420 running northeast was joined at Sasso Bolognese by Highway 64, following the river to Casalecchio, where it crossed and led into the heart of the industrially famous and long-enemy-held city of Bologna, the immediate target of Fifth Army driving from the south along Highways 64 and 65, and Eighth Army driving northwest along Highway 9 from Imola and Rimini.

With the main enemy resistance overcome, the main route of advance became the roadnet around and along Highway 64. For the first time since September 1944, the 91st Division was not attacking along Highway 65 which had affectionately and unofficially come to be known as "Highway 91." With its battalions on trucks the Regiment began the move to the new sector along the Reno Valley and Highway 6420 on the morning of 20 April, going into assembly areas there in the early afternoon.

At 0245 the next morning General Livesay sent a message to Colonel Magill:

Move combat team 363 (less artillery) to an assembly area selected by you in the vicinity of 835460 [just south of Casalecchio] or as close behind elements of the 6th South African Armored Division as possible. You will follow closely behind the 6SAAD elements until you arrive in the vicinity of La Groce. [A close-in suburb of the city.]

Meanwhile the two roads along the river valley had become gorged with double-banked traffic moving at a snail's pace trying to get forward and into Bologna. Hour after hour vehicles from the 88th Division, 91st Division, 6th South African Armored Division, tanks and reconnaissance cars, engineers, military police, ordnance units, artillery pieces—every type of unit and conveyance imaginable was jammed bumper to bumper trying to keep up with the leading elements on the congested bottleneck roads.

By 0915 the 2d and 1st Battalions had been trucked through the stream of traffic to a turnaround on Highway 6420 from where they proceeded on foot to Casalecchio. Meanwhile General Livesay had issued a verbal order at Casalecchio which was then given to battalion and company commanders. Combat Team 361 was to move into Bologna. Combat Team 362 would attack to the north, to the left of Combat Team 363. The latter would attack in a column of battalions—1st, 2d, 3d—with the initial objective the airport north and west of the city. At 1000 the 1st Battalion moved out, followed at 1230 by the 2d Battalion.

While Companies A and C moved up the west side of the river, Company B was clearing the east side, capturing six prisoners at La Groce by 1130 and advancing to S. Viola. All the ground was cleared and the airport secured against very little enemy resistance by 1400. At this time the 1st Battalion had crossed the airport and proceeded to Calderera di Reno, two miles north,

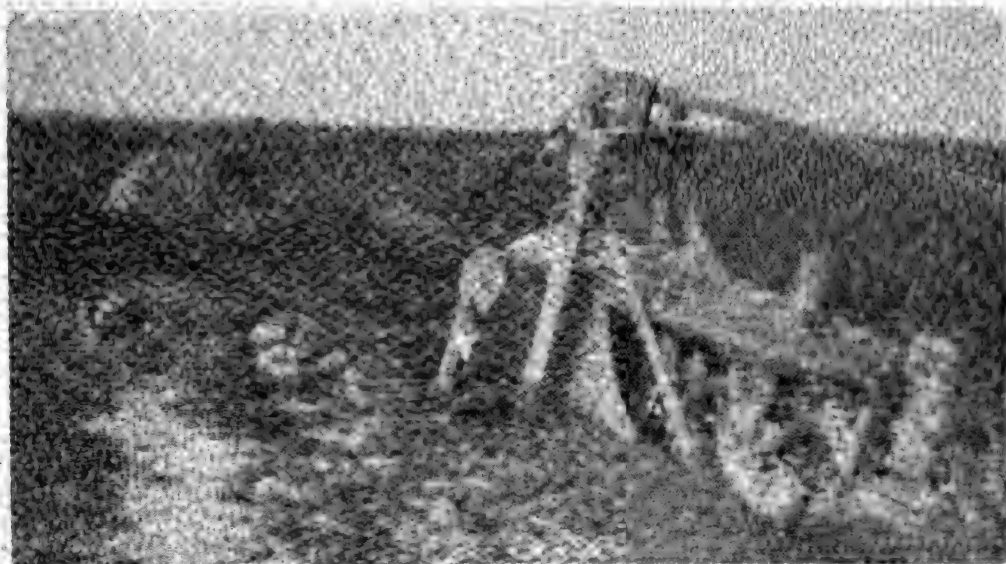


The road to Bologna was now open. American infantry and South African tanks poured into the Po Valley.

where it went into an assembly area to await further orders. The 2d Battalion, following likewise, went into an assembly area just north of the captured airport, while the 3d Battalion did the same on the southwest side of the airport.

Field orders arrived at 2120 that evening, 21 April, with plans for the 363d Infantry to continue the attack to the north, tying tanks and tank destroyers, following the 6th South African armor, cleaning out all pockets of enemy resistance bypassed in the sector. Resistance, except for these pockets, had practically ceased. As it was feared that contact with the fleeing enemy might be lost, preparations for a rapid blitzkrieg and strong pursuit had been made to prevent the Germans from organizing and again stoutly defending. Each of the jeeps and trucks making up the organic transportation of the Division, regiment, and battalion carried two 5-gallon cans of gasoline besides full tanks. All too were displaying the silvery orange or pink signal panels which told the active Air Forces overhead that the vehicle column below was friendly and was not to be strafed and bombed. Transportation was to be loaded to the maximum in order to move units as rapidly as possible north over the good roads. Here for the first time the 363d Infantry saw country where armor could be used in its element. Attached to the Regiment were the 804th Tank Destroyer Battalion (less two companies), the 757th Tank Battalion (less two companies), Company B, 100th Chemical Mortar Battalion (less one platoon), and the 347th Field Artillery Battalion. The tankers, now unencumbered by mountains and poor terrain for armor, were eager to show what they could do when given something to work with, and the infantrymen who had been training with them before the jumpoff were just as eager to have the fire power and protection of the tanks. The tankers scrambled inside, the infantry climbed on the outside and the pursuit continued towards the Po River.

The 1st Battalion left Calderera di Reno at 0100, 22 April, three and a half hours after the attack order was received at Regiment, and by 0330 Company A, leading the column, had made a gain of three miles to Fabbriera di Sala, encountering no resistance, where they went into reserve. At 0625 the 3d



Company C, 316th Engineers, use a bulldozer to fill the canal with its own dikes to get the battalion across.

Battalion, loaded on tanks, tank destroyers, trucks and jeeps, moved out of its assembly area southwest of the airport followed at 2000 yards by the 2d Battalion and by 0900 the flying column had reached the town of Padulla seven miles north of the airport where they captured 9 prisoners, the only Germans seen, making the total for the morning 12. By 1050 the rear of the 3d Battalion had cleared Padulla and word had been received from General Williamson on II Corps order that the Regiment would press the attack across the Panaro River 13 miles to the north by nightfall.

At this time the leading elements were still rapidly rolling across the valley floor with little or no resistance toward the town of Cento six miles north of Padulla and seven miles south of the Panaro River, behind the South African armor. Approaching Cento, the battalion struck for the crossroads 2000 yards to the west of the town where the tanks and riding infantry were faced with a canal bordered by earthen dikes which ran in a crescent shape across the sector, forming a junction with a larger north-south canal which ran along the Regimental east border. While Company C, 316th Engineers, put in a culvert, took bulldozers and filled in the canal with earth from the dikes, the infantry dismounted from the tanks and continued the pursuit north on foot. Meanwhile the 2d Battalion closed into an assembly area a mile south of the canal at 1622.

Juncture with Eighth Army, advancing from the southeast, was expected at any time at the city of Bondeno, halfway between the Panaro and the Po Rivers about 12 miles northeast of Cento. With this in mind plus the view of making more routes of advance available to the rapidly moving combat teams, a change in boundary was made. The 363d Infantry sector, originally 3000 yards in width, was enlarged to twice that, a change which in addition to presenting more of the Panaro River for possible crossing sites, also placed the town of Finale nell Emilia on the river just outside the Regimental sector. Finale boasted two bridges across the Panaro but reconnaissance showed both to be unsuitable for vehicles to cross.

The fill completed, the tanks and tank destroyers passed over the canal and

proceeded to the town of Decima, rejoining the infantry which by then had reached a point two miles north of there and about five miles from the river. At 2030 the 2d Battalion moved out of its assembly area closely following the 3d Battalion, whose reconnaissance elements, with the Regimental Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, were even then examining the banks of the Panaro for a crossing place. By 0100 a suitable site had been found and foot elements of the 3d Battalion were crossing the 50-foot-wide stream on an old scow which the enemy had used to cross a scant hour and a half earlier. By daylight the 3d Battalion Ammunition and Pioneer Platoon, commanded by Lieutenant John P. Lowe, Jr., had completed construction of a footbridge, and the battalion was across and moving toward the Po River on foot. The platoon of Company K, led by Lieutenant Bastron, attacked a German supply train on the north side of the river and captured eight prisoners.

During the night the 1st Battalion moved up from its assembly area near Fabbriera di Sala by truck to the south bank of the river, closing with the rest of the Regiment at the same time that the first troops began to cross the Panaro. By daylight of 23 April arrangements had been made to get the armor and organic vehicles across the river by taking them around to the west out of the Regimental sector into the sector of the 88th Division, where the South Africans had captured the bridge at the town of Camposanto intact before the Germans had a chance to blow it. While the armor was moving out of the 363d Infantry sector and around to Camposanto, crossing the bridge there and returning to the sector on the north bank of the stream, the 2d Battalion began crossing the footbridge to proceed north in the wake of the 3d Battalion's advance.

By midmorning intelligence and air OP reports began to come in of enemy activity in and around the town of Finale on the north bank of the river and the extreme east of the Regimental zone. The river crossing was being made on the extreme west of the zone, 4000 yards from Finale, which was now in the sector of the 362d Infantry. Through the 347th Field Artillery Battalion, which had moved into position on the south bank of the river with the Regiment, the liaison planes reported that enemy motorized and horse-drawn vehicles were moving northwest from the town. The 1st Battalion was immediately alerted to cross the river and move east into Finale to clean up any pockets of resistance there and assist the crossing of the 362d Infantry.

As of noon, 23 April, the situation was this: The 3d Battalion tanks and transportation had crossed the river at Camposanto and rejoined the foot troops who were cleaning out the settlements of Canaletto and Canalazzo three miles past the river. Little resistance was met here but eight prisoners were taken. The 2d Battalion was in process of crossing the Panaro on the foot-bridge while its transportation was doing the same at Camposanto. The 1st Battalion was moving out of its assembly area to follow the 2d Battalion across the foot-bridge to mop up Finale to the east while its transportation was following the 2d Battalion's across the vehicle bridge at Camposanto.

After completing the river crossing by 1300, the 1st Battalion reassembled on the north bank where it was joined by elements of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon whose mission was to contact the 362d Infantry in the sector to the right. Company A was given the reserve position. Moving east towards Finale at 1630, both Company B on the right and Company C on the left came under long-range harassing machine-gun fire from the left flank but continued to advance for another hour at which time Lieutenant Clarence

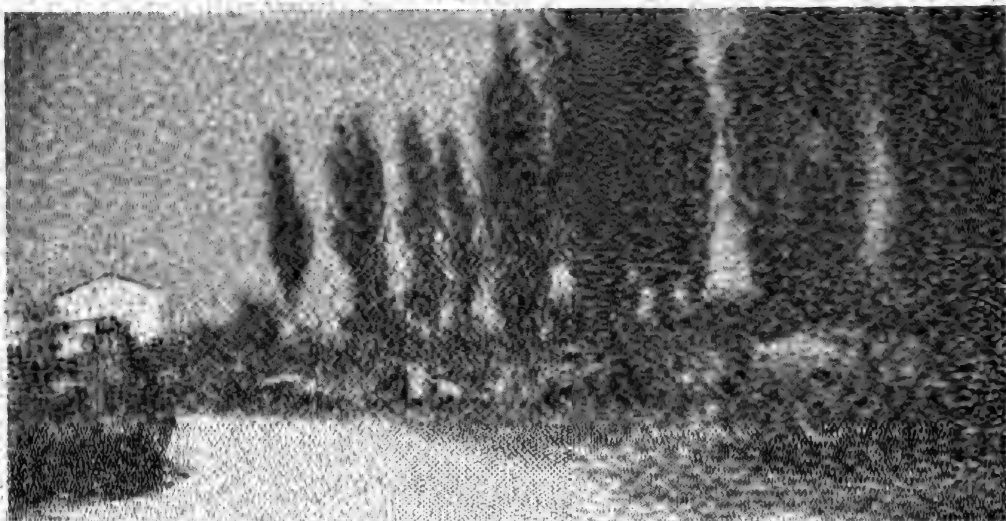
Ripley, commanding the 2d Platoon of the reserve Company A, was ordered to take a patrol of ten men, find the source of machine-gun fire and clean it out.

Leading through what defilade there was, Ripley found a group of 20 Germans digging their machine guns in near a group of buildings overlooking the road used by part of the battalion in its advance. A burst of fire from the automatic rifle of Private First Class Harry McDowell scattered the enemy and the fight was on. Leaving three men as a holding force to engage the enemy and keep their attention, Ripley took the remainder of the squad under the squad leader, Staff Sergeant Vincent J. Iavarone, around the right flank to the rear of the emplacements. At a prearranged signal the three-man holding force held its fire and the rest of the squad charged the Germans. Nine prisoners were taken in addition to three more enemy wounded plus the capture of five sniper rifles, a machine pistol and nine bicycles, after which the patrol turned its attention to searching the houses in the vicinity where they captured two more Germans. Among the eleven prisoners were two lieutenants and a major.

Meanwhile the two assault companies had made their way into Finale where they were engaged and making slow progress against numerous machine-gun emplacements, pillboxes and Germans holed up in the well constructed houses. The infantrymen broke up into small street-fighting groups and began the work of methodically erasing pocket after pocket of resistance. After the numerous small-arms fire fights, which were supported by mortar and artillery concentrations in addition to close-in air support, had gone on for four hours, the main resistance broke and the enemy retreated into the arms of the South Africans approaching from the south and east. All told, the South Africans took about 2000 prisoners. As mopping up continued Company B made contact with the 362d Infantry coming up on the right flank and secured one of the two bridges, which was usable but damaged.

While the town of Finale nell Emilia was being cleared of enemy by the 1st Battalion, the 3d Battalion, after crossing the river and searching the houses in Canaletto and Canalazzo for Germans, led the Regiment north followed by the 2d Battalion. By 0920 one platoon of tanks had rejoined the 3d Battalion column and a half hour later the battalion was again completely motorized and armored. Moving along an improved road, the head of the column had gained about five miles from the river when an enemy foot and vehicle column was spotted to the right front moving north toward the Po River. The road the Germans were using joined the Regiment's road a mile and a half farther to the north. The infantry quickly dismounted and opened fire on the enemy column driving the estimated hundred and fifty German foot troops into the vicinity of a barn by the side of the road. The tanks opened fire, demolishing the barn. Those Germans who had taken cover in the building and attempted to escape came under heavy rifle and machine-gun fire. Few if any did get away as the infantry and tankers poured fire into the area until 1500 after which the 3d Battalion column re-formed and continued north towards the Po.

To the left of the 363d Infantry sector the 88th Division was engaged in a tank-infantry fire fight with another group of the enemy trying to escape across the next water barrier. This seemed to be the main idea of the Germans—to get back across the Po and re-form to defend perhaps prepared positions there. There was little rear guard action because the Allied armored columns had knifed through the main German defenses to the south and the greater number



The closer the armored columns got to the Po, the greater the destruction of the German forces and equipment became.

of the German units. Now what units were able to escape were spread out over the valley from Bologna to the Po all going north. There was no front. It was a race to the river, to get there before the enemy, to prevent him from getting set to the north and again defending, to intercept him and keep him off balance so that he could not become a fighting unit to cope with, to destroy him and end the war. That's what was happening; while flights of Allied fighter planes formed an umbrella over the advancing panel-decked columns and spotted fleeing German convoys, fighter-bombers blasted away on the Po River banks at the enemy trying to cross. As the 363d Infantry got closer and closer to the river the roads and ditches were littered with German dead, wrecked and burning trucks, Volkswagens, carts, dead horses and mules, motorcycles, bicycles. Entire convoys were annihilated and strewn across the valley. The unbelievable death and destruction amazed even the most hard-bitten infantryman.

The Regimental column proceeded the mile and a half north to the road junction where they spotted another enemy column retreating along the same road as the one they had earlier engaged and wiped out. Company K and the leading tanks moved to the east to meet them. During the fight which resulted eight or ten of the German vehicles were destroyed as were a similar number of antiaircraft and antitank guns. Fifty prisoners were taken. The column turned left at the junction and proceeded west to the Fossa Reggiana, then north along the dike-lined canal to the towns of Fina Vecchia and Il Palazzetto. An enemy 88mm self-propelled gun opened fire from Fornace la Dogana to the right front, its first round hitting the leading infantry-laden tank in the column, knocking it out with a clean hole through the front armor. Neither the twelve men riding on the tank or the crew inside received so much as a scratch. The remaining tanks joined the infantry in deploying as best they could along the right side of the road and the broad fields there and opened fire. The dikes and canal prevented the use of the other side of the road. The enemy replied with heavy machine-gun fire and more self-propelled guns from defiladed positions, some of them inside the barns and houses of Fornace la Dogana firing through doors and windows. The 3d Battalion tanks began demolishing the houses while the small-arms fire kept the Germans penned inside. In the battle

which lasted until after dark, tank rounds scored direct hits on two of the enemy ammunition stock piles, setting off, besides the shells and demolitions, thousands of multicolored flares which turned the sky into a Fourth of July exhibition. The battalion was set up defensively as the fight continued. At least one self-propelled gun was destroyed as were all the buildings in the vicinity. Another friendly tank was knocked out by the same gun which had hit the first. Still, miraculously, no casualties had been suffered by the Americans. The column remained there all night in the defensive setup. Meanwhile the 2d Battalion, following the 3d Battalion in the column, had dismounted and deployed also at La Campa behind the fire fight when they saw along the road to their right front another German column moving northwest consisting of several horse-drawn vehicles, five halftrack trucks, three self-propelled guns, two or three field pieces, and four kitchens. The Antitank Platoon, commanded by Lieutenant Harold V. Burton, moved out to meet them in the vicinity of Redena two miles to the northeast. After knocking out at least one of the self-propelled guns, one kitchen, and a horse-drawn vehicle, they were recalled. The 2d Battalion remained here until midnight, 23-24 April, at which time seven tanks were attached and orders arrived to proceed to the Po ten miles to the north.

Bypassing the 3d Battalion fire fight the 2d Battalion cut due west along one of the dirt roads to the far side of the Regimental sector then turned north again along the roads built on top of the dikes in the very level and low valley floor. The move was uneventful until toward dawn, when the armored and infantry spearhead of the column began running into slight resistance from Germans unable to find a way back across the river. Part of the 88th Division was engaged with the enemy in Pastoria 400 yards west of the column's route and light harassing machine-gun fire was received from Cape di Villa. This prompted the leading infantrymen from Company E to dismount, take two of the tanks and go forward to investigate. They found two Germans attempting to hold up the armored battalion with a machine pistol while they built a hasty raft of branches on which to escape across the Po. No casualties were suffered from this incident.

Elements of Company E arrived in Bonizzo several hundred yards beyond on the southern bank of the Po at 0800 the morning of 24 April. At the same time the 3d Battalion, from which the Germans mainly interested in getting back across the river had disengaged sometime during the night, reached the river two miles to the east at Carbonara di Po after moving out at 0620. As the armor and infantry approached the town, they came upon Germans who had failed to be evacuated over the river during the night waiting around to be captured. There was no time or means for the advance elements to pick them all up; they did send 75 back under guard, but the majority were taken by the rear of the column or just waved on back. Many were indignant when no one would bother to accept their surrender but would just motion to the south. As the battalions entered the towns more Germans streamed from the houses carrying white flags. One Italian farmer told riflemen who were rounding up Germans that there were 75 or 80 a short distance away who wanted to surrender, then seeing that the American soldiers were too busy to bother brought them in himself. After 200 prisoners were accumulated, temporary cages were set up, then as these got too small the Germans were turned over to other units. Although the riflemen were too busy catching Germans to count prisoners,

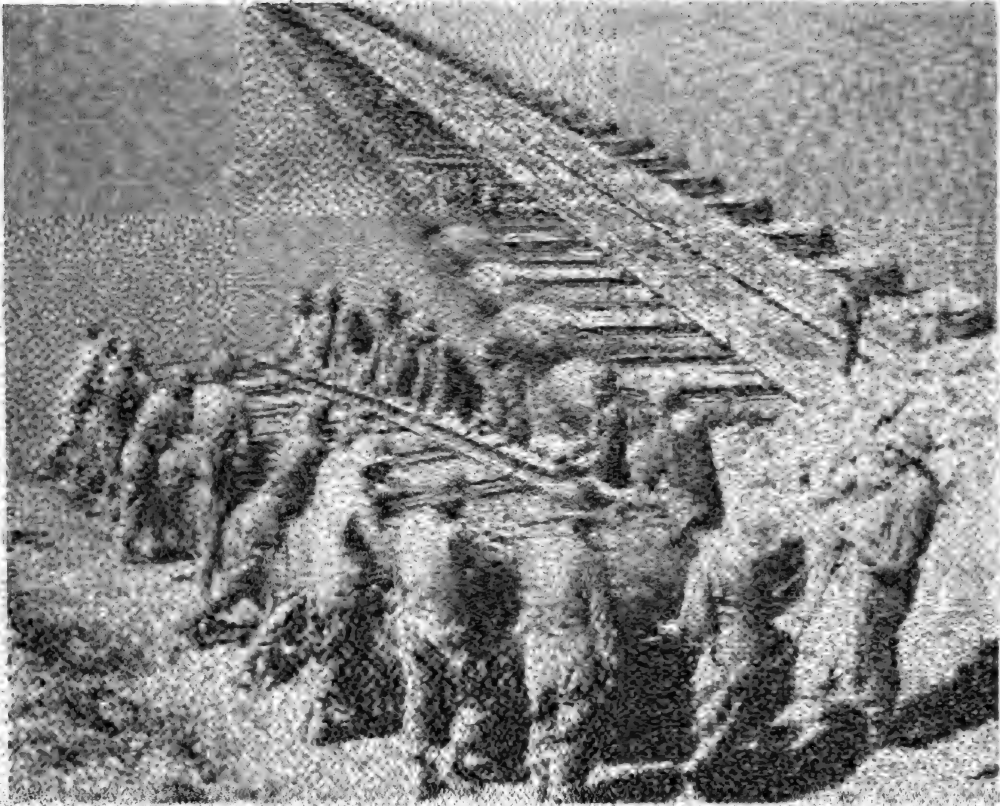


More than eight hundred German prisoners captured at the Po are escorted to a PW inclosure by a GI on horseback.

it was unofficially estimated that close to 2000 prisoners were taken by the 363d Infantry that day and either returned by way of regular channels through Division or given to some other unit. The 3d Battalion alone could account for 800 by noon after which they stopped counting. The tanks immediately moved up to the river bank and taking positions behind the levees opened fire with 76mm and machine guns on the few Germans who attempted to cross the Po on rafts rather than surrender.

Upon reaching the south bank of the Po the 363d Infantry was ordered into Division reserve. The 1st Battalion, which had moved from Finale by truck to an assembly area near Colombateni seven miles south of Bonizzo and the river, during the morning moved up again, joining the remainder of the combat team on the river bank at 1315 in the afternoon. It was evident that there was no immediate hope of the Regiment getting across the bridgeless Po at once; while materials for bridging the river were moving up and a reconnaissance for crossing sites was carried on, the tired infantry and tankers snatched the first complete night's sleep since the jumpoff at 0300, 16 April, nine days before. II Corps engineers began construction of a ponton bridge across the 300-foot stream just west of Bonizzo and the Regimental area, and a ferry site was located just east of the town of Sermide three miles east of the 3d Battalion positions at Carbonara di Po. This latter place was where the Regiment crossed.

The following afternoon, 25 April, the 2d Battalion began crossing at 1300 on amphibious tractors and ferries brought up for the purpose, followed by the 1st Battalion at 1630, and the 3d Battalion at 1800. By this time Company C, 316th Engineers, had constructed a ponton ferry powered by four outboard motors, which was capable of carrying a platoon of men or a jeep with trailer. The Corps bridge did not open to traffic until that night, 25 April, by which time all the foot troops and most of the light essential vehicles of the Regiment



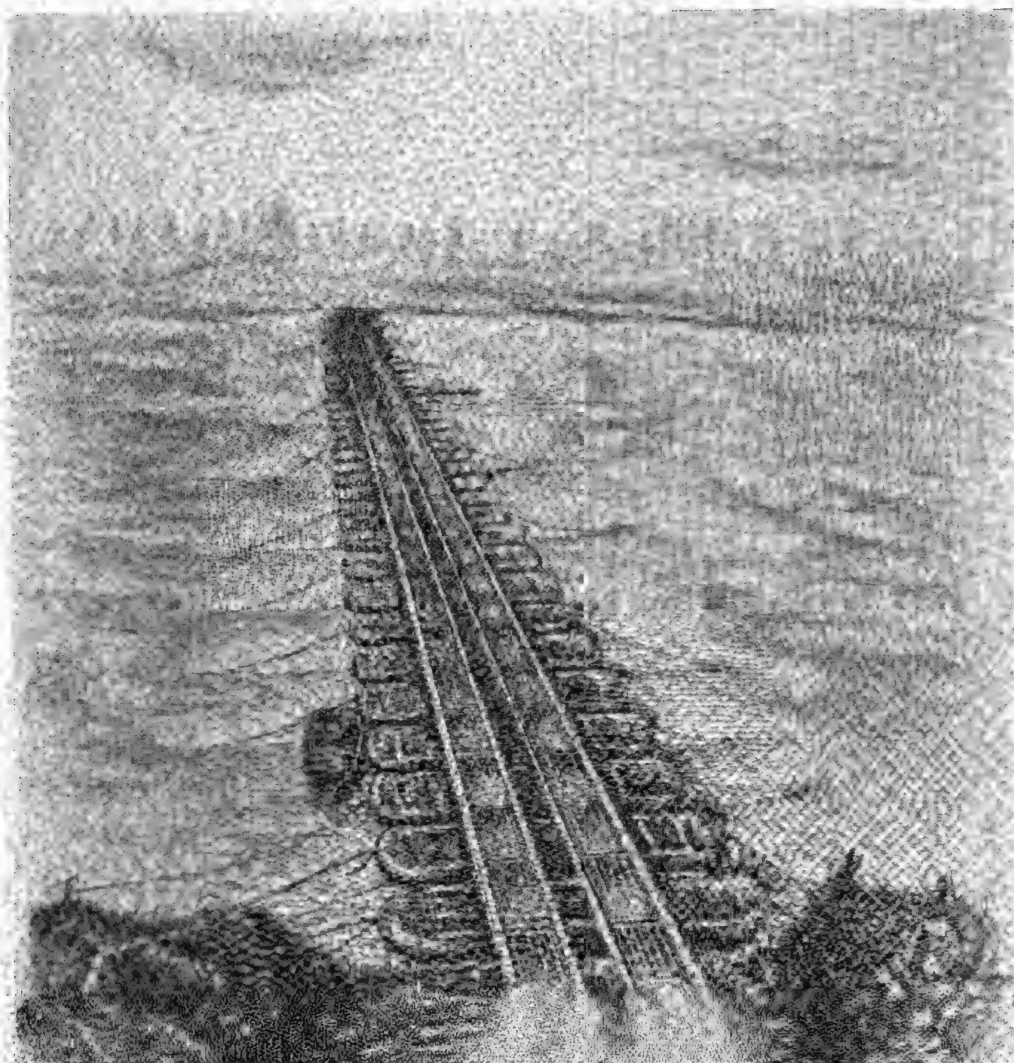
Corps engineers throw a ponton bridge over the Po at Ravenna. The Regiment had been ferried across at Serravalle to the east.

had been ferried across. The 363d Infantry, still in reserve, followed the 361st Infantry over the river and was ordered to advance on the left of that regiment and hit the Adige River, the next water barrier which flowed northeast-southwest in the Division sector ten miles north.

The 362d Infantry, first regiment across the river, was ahead of the 363d Infantry, headed for the town of Legnago on the Adige. As the latter proceeded west on foot in column of battalions to return to its sector out of which it was forced to move to the ferry site that evening, General Livesay issued several verbal orders, the essence of which were that the 363d Infantry would pass through the 362d Infantry and hit the Adige at Legnago to the right of the 361st Infantry.

Reaching Bergantino across the river from where they had bivouacked the column of battalions turned north and headed for Legnago. The 2d Battalion continued the foot march all night, the 1st and 3d Battalions holding up about two miles north of the Po for food and rest as the 362d Infantry to the front became involved in a fight at several large canals between the two rivers. By midnight vehicles crossed the Corps bridge over the Po and the 1st and 3d Battalions loaded up, overtaking the 2d Battalion on Highway 10 leading to Legnago, passing through the 362d Infantry which had advanced to within two miles of the Adige, again becoming the leading elements of the Division.

At the town of S. Pietro di Legnago just outside Legnago, Company E became the advance guard, with the 1st Platoon, commanded by Lieutenant March



Ponton bridge on the Po River. (Sketch by Radulovich).

P. Kovas, as the point. Companies F, G, and H followed in that order, with the mission of forcing their way into Legnago and clearing it of enemy who intelligence reports indicated were entrenched in the town and on the river banks in strength. Advancing in the grey of dawn the 1st Platoon paused a moment at the junction of Highway 10. A German vehicle with five passengers drove down the main street of S. Pietro without drawing fire. In the half light the men were uncertain of its identity. Five hundred yards farther the platoon was fired upon from a house occupied by 15 Germans. The enemy surrendered after a half hour fight during which two of their number were killed and seven wounded. Meanwhile the 3d Platoon, commanded by Lieutenant John J. Schreibers, halted an enemy ambulance convoy of seven vehicles as it approached S. Pietro on the highway. The convoy with its cargo of wounded, medical personnel, and female nurses was captured and sent to the rear.

For the attack on Legnago the order called for Company E to clear the town to the left of the highway the 1st Platoon to seize the bridge across the Adige.

Company F was assigned the task of clearing the town to the right of the highway while Company G was in support. As it neared the banks of the river well inside the town the 3d Platoon surprised a group of 50 Germans attempting to cross the river on a barge. Lieutenant Schreibeis called on the automatic-rifle men and a light machine gun to bring fire on the barge as it crept across the broad stream towards Porto Legnago on the other side. Only four of the enemy escaped up the opposite bank.

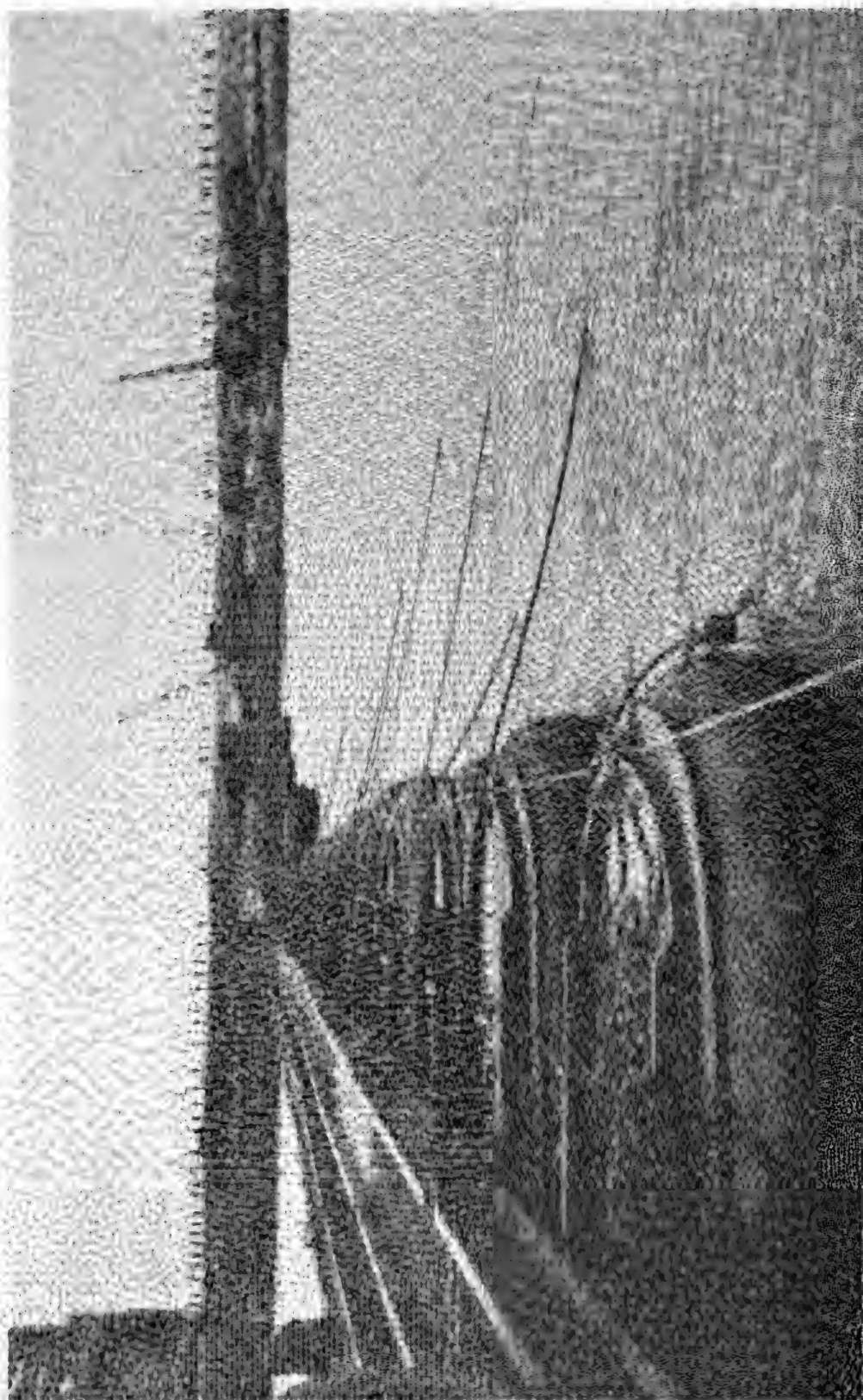
Meanwhile the 1st Battalion attacked and seized the west bank of the river to the north of the 2d Battalion, meeting little resistance.

Inside Legnago the 1st Platoon of Company E, headed for the bridge, was engaged in a fire fight with Germans in a ditch 75 yards to its front. Lieutenant Kovas divided the leading squad into two groups, giving one the mission of firing and advancing while he took the other half with him around to the left of the enemy to get on their flank and pour fire down the length of the ditch. The maneuvering force moved rapidly over the exposed terrain and through the small-arms fire. Kovas stood up and shot two of the Germans, then emptied the rest of two clips at the trench, before shouting to those of the enemy remaining to surrender. With no intention whatever of giving up, the Germans replied to this ultimatum with a burst of machine-gun and rifle fire. Kovas crept toward the ditch, covered by the fire of his half squad. When he was close enough he threw two grenades and repeated his threat "Come out with your hands up or be killed." Ten Germans came out with their hands up.

After two hours of maneuvering through the rubble the town of Legnago was cleared, and the bridge destroyed by the enemy was secured. Amphtracs and DUKWs were brought forward for the Adige River crossing. By early morning, while the fight to clear the town was still going on, the 1st Battalion had moved into an assembly area to the northwest or left of the 2d Battalion while the 3d Battalion did the same to the southeast along the river. Company G, which had not entered the fight, moved down to the river for the crossing with the 1st Platoon, commanded by Lieutenant McCanna, leading.

As the first troops of Company G loaded on the DUKWs to start the crossing, enemy machine guns on the far bank at Porto Legnago raked the levees on the west bank of the river. Despite this, the first two amphibious vehicles took to the water under cover of friendly small-arms fire as soon as they were loaded. Midway in the stream the first one struck a sand bar and became stranded. It was immediately taken under fire by one of the enemy machine guns firing from the Porto Legnago church steeple. Two men were wounded. The occupants jumped into the water and crouched behind the DUKW as enemy bullets riddled the hull. By this time the second DUKW, commanded by Lieutenant Jack C. Mott, had hit the same bar farther down stream. Some of the men in the water swam back to shore. One, Private First Class Leo F. Jolin, swam to the opposite side with everything on but his pack—including shoes and helmet—then climbed out on the bank as machine-gun bullets spattered into the mud all around him. He wasn't touched, but was the first man across the Adige.

By this time the bridge across the Po had been opened to vehicular traffic. Twelve tanks and four tank destroyers which had been able to cross arrived on the scene, stuck their guns simultaneously over the levees and opened fire on the enemy bank. One round was aimed at the German machine gun in the church steeple; a direct hit knocked the gun out of action. Lieutenant Mott swam ashore with directions which enabled the third DUKW to leave the bank,



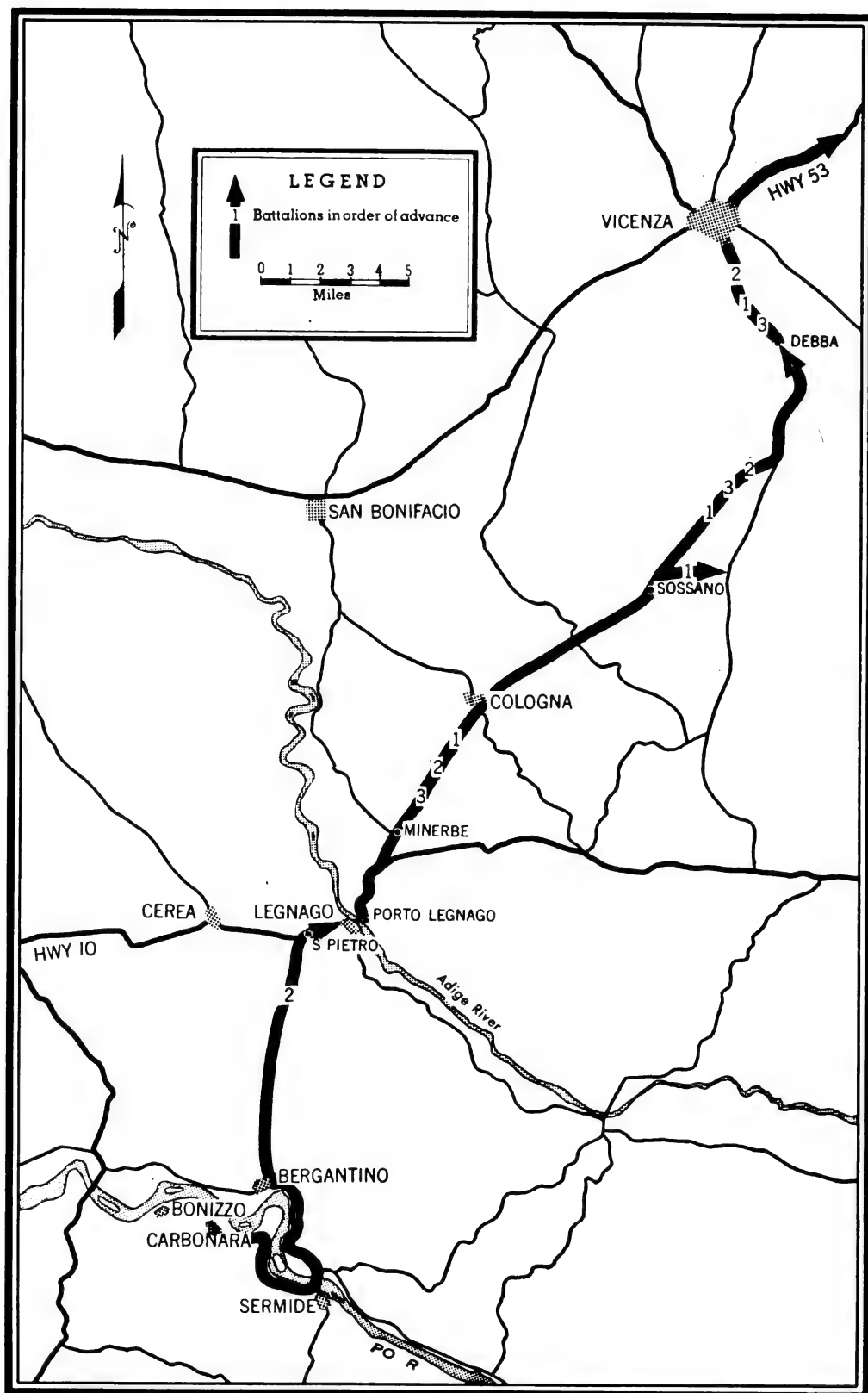
Reinforcing infantrymen are silhouetted against the sky on the south bank of the Adige River before crossing.

go farther downstream and cross successfully. Generals Truscott, Keyes and Livesay were all present to witness the start of this rapid, successful crossing of the barrier which was to determine whether the enemy could occupy and defend from the previously prepared positions behind the Adige.

Company E followed Company G across and was given the mission of clearing the sector to the left of Company G. Company F, in reserve, crossed next, elements using the practically destroyed bridge, followed by the 1st and 3d Battalions. All foot troops of the 363d Infantry were across the Adige River by 1815, 26 April, as were three of the medical jeeps and trailers. As the Regiment rapidly fanned out to protect the bridgehead, the 362d Infantry moved up to cross behind the 363d Infantry. The Division engineers by mid-afternoon had brought up the ferrying equipment from the Po crossing site and the ferrying of small vehicles continued through the night. The Corps engineers brought up heavy bridging materials and started a vehicle bridge below Legnago. Troops poured across the Adige while enemy artillery ranged over the river with air bursts. Fortunately the Germans were without observation of the crossing and bridging sites and the air bursts did not come over the troops working at the river's edge.

In clearing the town of Porto Legnago some pockets of stubborn resistance were encountered by both the 1st and 2d Battalions, bringing the first group of serious casualties to the Regiment in the Po Valley. The Division command post, which moved just west of Legnago, was heavily shelled toward nightfall, several casualties resulting. Company G captured 43 prisoners, 28 of them in one pocket; wounded more than 30 and killed approximately the same number in moving northeast of the town. Here they received machine-pistol fire from the vicinity of the railroad tracks leading to Sossano but maneuvered and wiped out the small enemy group. The 2d Platoon of Company E, commanded by Lieutenant Carroll F. Eaddy, knocked out a machine gun covering Highway 10, the main route to the north. The 1st Platoon, to the right of the highway, ran into stubborn resistance from approximately 30 Germans. The 3d Squad of the platoon, commanded by Staff Sergeant William Hamrick, was suddenly fired on from the ditches and tall wheat and grass by the roadsides which concealed the enemy. An hour's fight ensued during which the rapid maneuvering of the squad flanked the Germans. A few escaped, 8 were killed, 9 were wounded, and 17 prisoners were taken. One man in the 1st Platoon was injured. By nightfall the resistance within an arc of 3000 yards of the river had been overcome and the bridgehead secured. The 1st and 3d Battalions also met resistance in moving to their assigned sectors, suffering 4 men killed in action and 12 wounded by enemy tank fire.

By the next morning, 27 April, all information indicated that the enemy had completely withdrawn to the northeast and would probably defend 18 miles farther on at the supply town of Sossano. At 0845 the 1st Battalion received orders to move out of its assembly area near Porto Legnago on foot with such organic vehicles as had been ferried across the Adige to secure Minerbe, Cologne, and Sossano, followed by the 2d and 3d Battalions in that order. The Regimental sector was roughly astride the railroad running through Legnago northeast to Vicenza, Treviso, and Udine. The 362d Infantry remained to cover the bridgehead. The 363d Infantry column moved past Minerbe and Cologne during the day almost without incident. Company I was given the mission of guarding the bridge over a canal just north of Cologne which was captured



From the Po to Vicenza.

intact. Dusk found the battalions moving into the town of Sossano, where it was decided to set up an all-around defense for the night. The rapid movement had caught the enemy completely off balance and he was not aware of the presence of American troops in the town, an important Army supply dump. As Lieutenant Colonel Long, commanding the 3d Battalion, assembled his company commanders in the street to give them orders for the troop dispositions for the night three truck-loads of Germans drove into their midst.

In the free-for-all that followed, with the officers firing from doorways and around corners, the enemy infantry abandoned their vehicles and fled. All of the casualties were on the enemy side. About the same time in the dusk just west of Sossano the Regimental command post party was halted along the road with elements of the 2d Battalion. The radio jeep belonging to Rover Joe was at the tail end. Another vehicle ground to a stop just behind Rover Joe. A 2d Battalion rifleman sitting beside the road looked up and quickly fired a round, wounding the driver of the new vehicle. In an instant 15 members of the crew of a German tractor-drawn 88 hit the ditch on either side of the road and raised their hands. The sergeant in Rover Joe's jeep looked around, "What a hell of a place for the Air Force to be!"

From here on the night was one of confusion as the enemy proceeded to put in roadblocks to the rear of the battalions. One messenger hit an enemy roadblock and lost his vehicle. An ambulance was halted going to the rear at another and the driver held as hostage while the ambulance returned to the battalion aid station with the German demand that they would block evacuation unless an agreement was made to evacuate German wounded in American vehicles. In the early morning a mess sergeant was killed while bringing up rations.

At 0400 on the morning of 28 April the Regiment was ordered to alert and be ready to push farther northeast on trucks to be furnished by Division which had not yet been able to cross the Adige because of the solid stream of higher-priority traffic on the now completed bridge. The 1st Battalion, leading, was to follow an unimproved road east out of Sossano then turn north at the Junction of this road with the highway going north into the city of Vicenza 13 miles away. At 0450 the trucks hadn't arrived; Colonel Magill ordered Lieutenant Colonel Woods to move the 1st Battalion out on foot with the organic vehicles, assuring him that the trucks would soon catch up. At 0510 the leading elements of the battalion crossed the initial point and ten minutes later the trucks arrived. The unit was now again completely motorized. Leading the column were four Company D jeeps with mounted caliber .30 heavy machine guns under Lieutenant Willard B. Dreschler, Company D 1st Platoon leader, followed in order by a jeep carrying a bazooka team and an automatic-rifle team; Captain Lloyd J. Inman, commanding Company C, in a jeep with a mounted caliber .50 machine gun; two 1½-ton trucks pulling 57mm antitank guns; Company C loaded on 2½-ton trucks; another antitank gun; the battalion command group and radio section; the 81mm mortar platoon of Company D in jeeps, commanded by Lieutenant Robert E. Lynch; Company B in trucks; Company A; Headquarters Company; the attached platoon of Company C, 316th Engineers and a battery of 347th Field Artillery with their pieces.

The leading elements approached to within 800 yards of the road junction when Lieutenant Dreschler spotted two vehicles moving north on the highway ahead. By the time the second vehicle reached the crossing they were identified

as enemy and the first two jeeps in the column opened fire with the machine guns, knocking out the second vehicle. As the guns went into action Captain Inman ordered Company C to dismount and the 1st and 2d Platoon leaders to report to him immediately at the head of the column. The front antitank gun was ordered into position on the road to protect the column from any armored threat which might approach on the highway. Lieutenant Dale N. Boyd took his 1st Platoon, Company C, to clear out the buildings 200 yards south of the road junction.

The advance of the rifle platoons was supported by fire from the machine guns and the antitank guns; some small-arms fire was returned by the enemy but there were no casualties. When the firing ceased the leading jeep moved down to the road junction, finding no further sign of the enemy. Lieutenant Boyd's platoon had taken 4 prisoners; Lieutenant Bassin's platoon captured 30, wounded 6, killed 2. The 2d Platoon also captured the vehicle which had escaped the machine-gun fire, two carts and one 20mm flak gun. The two vehicles that had been spotted as they passed the road junction contained a German PX ration which the battalion divided up.

When the column stopped, Lieutenant Bone, Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon leader, then attached to the 1st Battalion, took some of his men in two jeeps and moved north up the highway to see what was up there in the way of opposition. About a mile north they came under machine-gun and rifle fire from a group of the enemy set up defensively firing down the road. The I&R Platoon men hit the ditches and returned the fire while word was sent back to the column, and the drivers, with some difficulty due to the enemy fire, got the jeeps turned around and off the road. Instructions came back from Lieutenant Colonel Woods for the group to disengage from the Germans and return to the column. This they did.

By this time the rest of the battalion had climbed back on the trucks and the column again began to move down the road toward the highway with the mission of advancing to the town of Debba four miles south of Vicenza on the highway by nightfall. As they again neared the junction another enemy motor column was sighted approaching about half a mile to the south moving in close formation, with foot troops on each side of the motor elements on the highway. Company C, less Lieutenant Bassin's 2d Platoon which was still cleaning out the houses to the north, took up firing positions along a canal running east of the highway while Company B did the same west of the highway with Company A. The latter also sent one platoon with a section of light machine guns to the east of the highway to guard against a surprise attack from that direction.

One antitank gun was again set up in the middle of the road facing the enemy column with men seated on the trails which couldn't dig in the hard macadam surfaces; the 1st Platoon of Company D set up four heavy machine guns on the east of the highway along the canal while the 2d Platoon set up one section on the west side of the road. The other section of the 2d Platoon had been attached to the Company C platoon in the attack on the houses to the north. Lieutenant Lynch's 81mm mortars went off-carrier and into position in the ditch beside the road along which the battalion had been moving; the attached artillery and tanks moved off the road and prepared to fire while Captain Norman Hoeft, artillery liaison officer, contacted 347th Field Artillery

Battalion headquarters by radio and received the support of another battery of 105mm guns and two more tanks. Still there had not been a shot fired.

The enemy spotted the movement to the front and began to move two 20mm flak wagons into position on the road, the forward gun being pushed 200 yards nearer to the American positions with the crew preparing to fire when Lieutenant Colonel Woods gave the order for all guns to commence firing.

Three rifle companies, six heavy machine guns, one 57mm antitank gun, six 81mm mortars, and twelve 105mm guns opened fire at his command. The enemy reply was short—a burst of machine-gun fire and a few rounds from one of the flak guns. The first round from the antitank gun set in the middle of the highway knocked out the foremost flak gun, killed three of its crew, and went through six horses in the German column. The terrific volume of fire was poured into the enemy until it seemed there could be no more alive, much less any resistance.

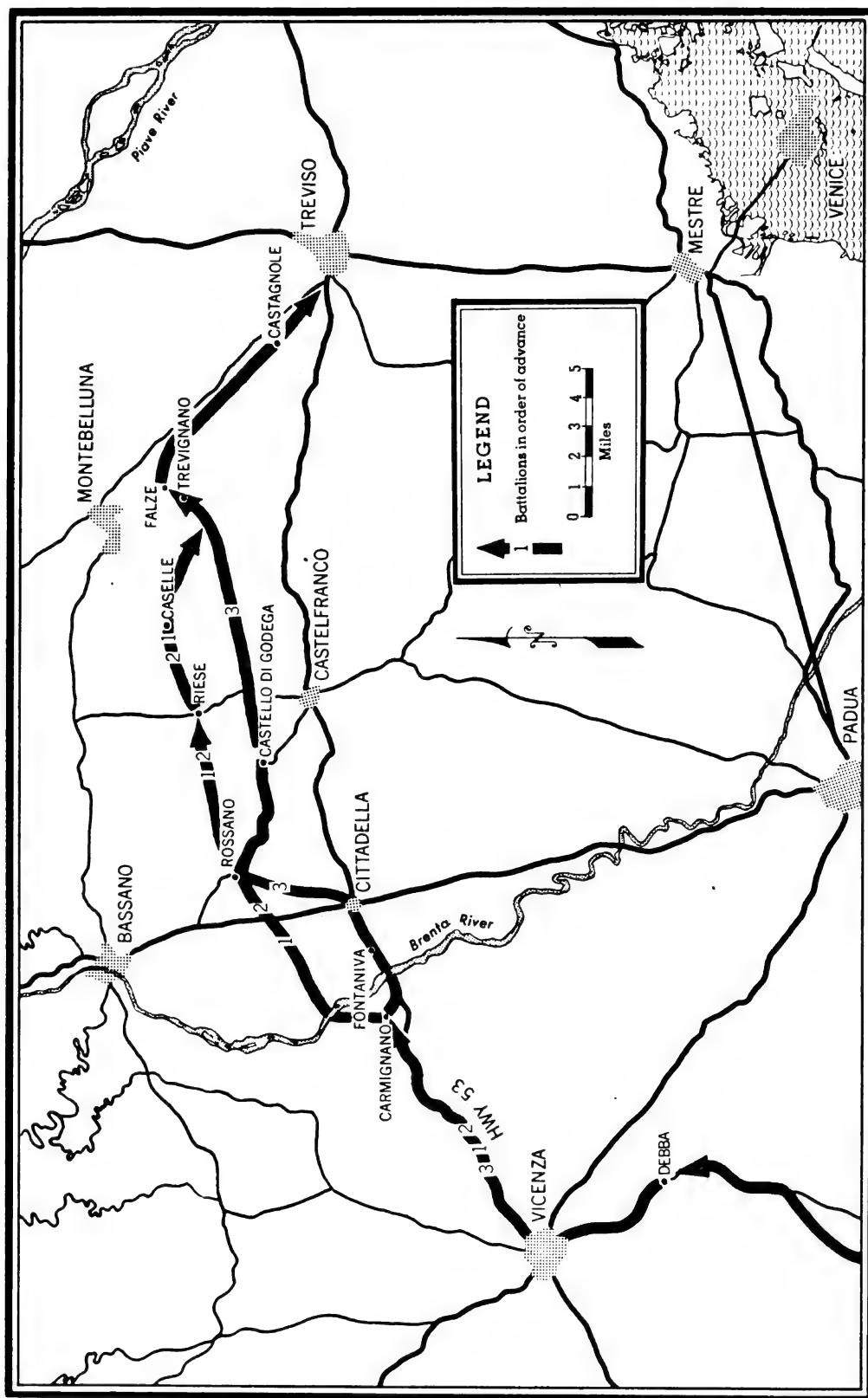
Some of the German vehicles and personnel to the rear tried to cut off to the east only to run into a force of South Africans approaching from that direction. At 1230 elements of Company B with tanks went into the carnage to mop up. They took 115 prisoners, 38 wounded, and found 125 killed. Destroyed were three 88mm guns, at least 15 trucks, a similar number of horse-drawn carts, several motorcycles, 3 flak wagons, a number of machine guns, 30 bicycles, and about 30 horses. German doctors among the prisoners worked over the wounded. They stated that in their years in the German Army they had never seen such a slaughter.

The battalion suffered no casualties. By 1430 it was again loaded up and ready to move on to Debba.

The answer to the question of whether the Germans could reorganize and defend beyond the Adige, and the matter of the spectacular and practically unopposed gains of the 363d Infantry was answered the morning of 28 April through the capture of a German officer who had the German field order and overlay issued on 27 April. The Regiment had managed to move through five successive enemy defense lines between the Adige and Sossano just a few hours before the enemy was ordered to occupy them.

While the 1st Battalion action was going on, the Regiment took an alternate route and with the 2d Battalion in the lead headed for Debba. The 363d Infantry was almost across the Po Valley. For the first time in ten days they saw foothills with narrow winding roads impeding the progress of vehicles. Some 88mm fire was received during the day and the ground action was limited, with roads and terrain slowing the movement. By midnight they had reached the town of Debba, five miles south of Vicenza, meeting no resistance at all there, where they spent the night. The 1st Battalion left Companies A and C at the junction where the fight had occurred at a roadblock and joined the remainder of the Regiment just as they entered Debba.

Moving out the morning of 29 April in column, the 2d Battalion leading followed by the 1st and 3d Battalions in that order, the Regiment passed through Vicenza at 0620 behind the 361st and 362d Infantry Regiments up Highway 53 toward the fourth water barrier ten miles northeast, the Brenta River. Orders stated that crossings would be made at a point between the towns of Carmignano di Brenta on the southwest side and Fontaniva on the northeast. As the Regiment moved out the highway was clogged with traffic; as it neared the river jeeps, trucks, tanks, reconnaissance cars, captured German vehicles—



From Vicenza to Treviso.

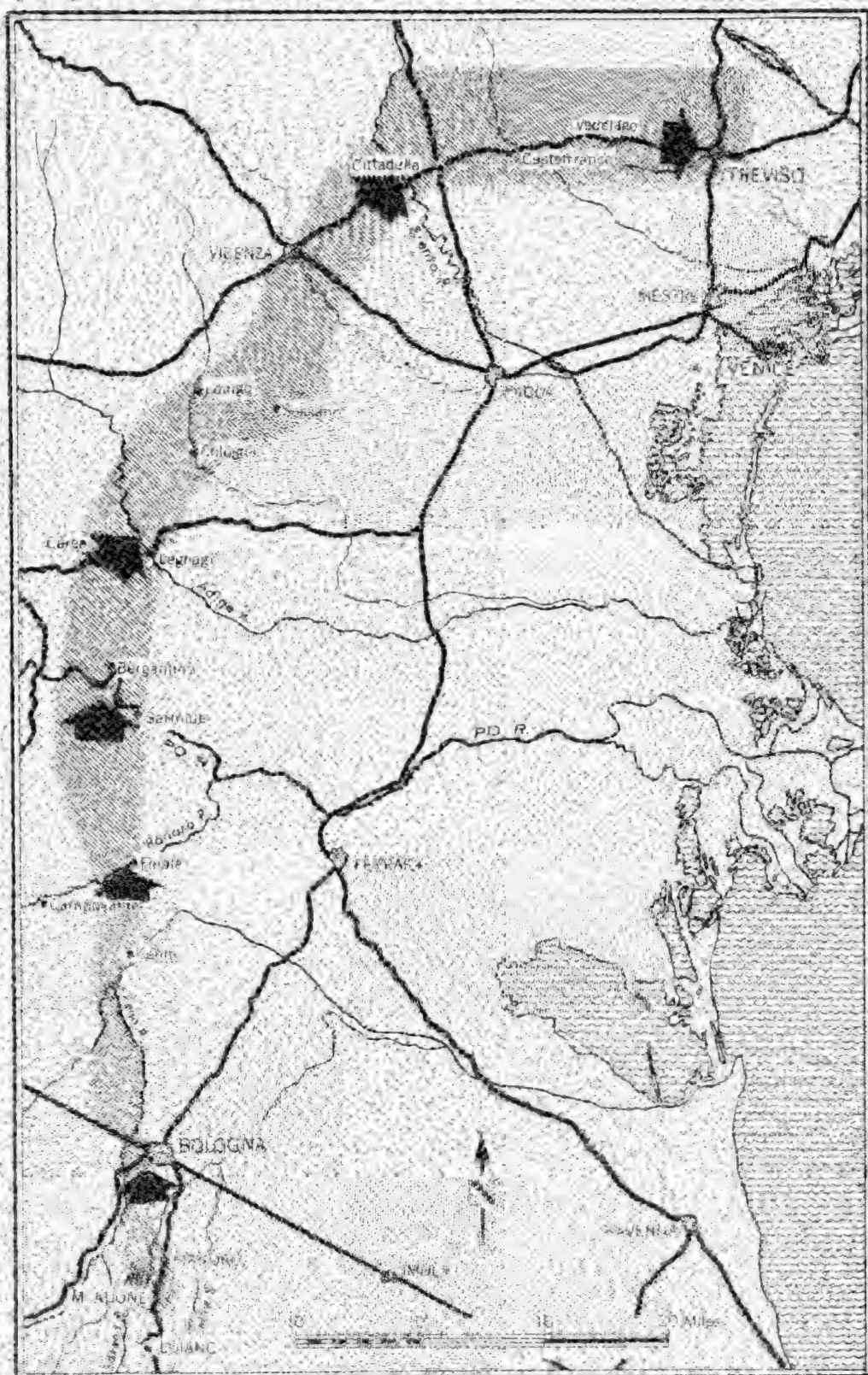
the transportation of the three regiments and attached units—was double-banked all the way back to Vicenza waiting to cross the shallow, wide stream to the bridgehead secured during the night by Task Force George, made up of the 3d Battalion, 362d Infantry, one battery of field artillery, a company of tanks, and one of tank destroyers. Because of this congestion on the highway and crossing site, the 363d Infantry left the main road and went into an assembly area on the near bank in the vicinity of Carmignano di Brenta for a few hours.

During the afternoon the Regiment was ordered to ford the river near a blown bridge four miles above the Division crossing. The bridges across the gravel-bottomed streambed all had been destroyed by the enemy in his flight to escape north and northeast through the passes in the Alps to Austria. The Allied air forces had followed them up and made life miserable by keeping these passes, principally the Brenner, saturated with bombings. The Brenta riverbed too was studded with butterfly bombs dropped by the air forces to delay the enemy retreat. The stream itself, although over 100 yards wide, was not deep enough for DUKWs, amfibacs, or ponton floats. Therefore vehicles which couldn't ford the river under their own power had to be towed across by those that could. Tanks, tank destroyers, and bulldozers all helped the trucks and jeeps across, but the bulldozers proved most effective. At 1700 the foot troops of the 2d and 1st Battalions started crossing north of the Division site and marched through the night until dawn found the leading elements at the village of Rossano five miles to the northeast of the river. Here the tanks and troop vehicles joined them. The 3d Battalion crossed in motors at the Division site at 0730 and arrived at Rossano by 1005.

A patrol of Company I and K men captured 55 prisoners who were occupying their assigned assembly area a few minutes later. They put up no resistance. At 0800 the 2d Battalion moved out of Rossano for Riese, another five miles northeast, on trucks and organic vehicles with two tank destroyers and three light tanks attached, followed by the 1st Battalion. By the time the 3d Battalion arrived in Rossano the leading 2d Battalion was overcoming scattered small-arms resistance in various pockets along the route and by noon was engaged in cleaning up the town of Riese where one hundred more prisoners were taken after slight resistance.

The 3d Battalion moved out of Rossano on trucks and organic vehicles by way of a parallel road to the south of the route taken by the 2d and 1st Battalions which would also take them to Trevignano, eight miles east of Riese. They too met only scattered resistance. Throughout the day each battalion was in brief brisk engagements, at one time all three being in a fight at different places at the same time. The constant use of tanks ended most of the actions quickly. At Riese the 1st Battalion passed through the 2d Battalion and pushed on to Caselle three miles away while the latter continued to mop up the small pockets of resistance in and around the town.

The accumulation of prisoners provided the major problem. Hundreds were herded into temporary inclosures from which they were evacuated the following day. These were guarded by a few special police from Regimental Headquarters Company. Word, however, began to spread of a group of 30 Germans armed with automatic weapons who were preparing to attack the inclosures with the object of freeing the prisoners and continuing resistance. A platoon of Company F was given the mission of guarding the cages. The number grew during the afternoon almost in proportion to the number of prisoners taken.



The Po Valley Campaign.



The 353d Infantry assembled here outside of Treviso in a former German PW camp, where word of the war's end was received.

taken. By late afternoon the famed German rescuers had expanded to over a full-strength division armed to the teeth supported by tanks and artillery converging from all directions on the prisoner-of-war inclosure that now held over 400 real Germans. Of course no such attack materialized, but the prisoner count continued to grow.

Meanwhile the 1st Battalion had arrived in Caselle, where a brisk fire fight ensued with Italian partisans participating. After an hour the 1st Battalion shipped an additional 250 prisoners back to the inclosure at Riese and pushed on east to Trevignano, disengaging itself from the fight which the partisans continued. At 1713 the battalion halted about two miles outside of Trevignano to allow the rear of the 3d Battalion coming up on the right flank to pass through. While waiting for the 3d Battalion column to pass Lieutenant Colonel Woods received word to dispatch Company A with a platoon of machine guns and several tanks attached back to Caselle where the partisans had taken on more Germans than they could handle. The requested reinforcements returned to Caselle to find that meanwhile the 2d Battalion had moved up from Riese and the Caselle situation was again well under control.

At Trevignano the 3d Battalion ran into a bivouacked German antiaircraft unit. It was 1650 in the afternoon when elements of Company L, commanded by Lieutenant Brown, overran the outposts and engaged the Germans in a bitter fire fight which necessitated the employment of Company K to the right of Company L in order to clear the town. Company M machine guns were moved from the vehicles into positions. One of the guns was set up in the second story of an Italian house by Private First Class Carmel Caruso who opened fire on the enemy from a window overlooking the Germans. They immediately concentrated rifle fire on the gun in an effort to silence it and lead was ricocheting off the building and window frame inches from Caruso's head.

Unable to knock the gun out with rifles, the Germans opened fire with one



The second chow line.

of the 20mm flak guns. Although they came close the courageous Caruso stayed at his weapon and finally succeeded in outshooting the enemy and pinning them down. Firing at 200 yards he killed twelve Germans and silenced the flak gun.

"The Germans, although surprised by our entry into Trevignano, fought bitterly," said Lieutenant Colonel Long. "Besides the 20mm flak guns they employed machine guns, self-propelled 88s, and rifle fire. The 3d Battalion succeeded in driving the Germans from the town without suffering a single casualty. Company L captured 103 prisoners and killed 39 Germans, captured an ammunition dump and six flak guns. At this time the battalion was ordered to disengage and proceed to Treviso. This was accomplished and the 3d Battalion, the leading element of the Regiment, closed into the prescribed assembly area by 2100 that night." The entire Regiment closed into the outskirts of Treviso by 0800 on the morning of 1 May, where the Division assembled as Corps reserve and continued to round up hundreds of Germans in the area.

The war was almost over and everyone knew it. The three days of bloody and fierce fighting to break inch by inch through the shell the enemy had built around his positions during the long winter months and the twelve days following during which the 363d Infantry had knifed swiftly 159 airline miles from below Bologna to north of Venice and to the foothills of the Alps had broken the back of the German armies in Italy. Even then surrender terms were being arranged between representatives of General Von Vietinghoff-Scheel and *Obergruppenführer* Karl Wolff, chief of the SS and General Plenipotentiary

of the Wehrmacht in Italy, and representatives of Field Marshal Sir Harold Alexander, Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean, at the King's palace in Caserta.

The day before, 30 April, General Mark W. Clark had announced that 25 German divisions in northern Italy had been destroyed and that German military power had practically ceased to exist. As the 363d Infantry moved into Treviso on 1 May, contact was made by the British Eighth Army patrols and the forces of Marshal Tito advancing westward from Trieste. The Fifth Army was within two miles of the Swiss border. One hundred thousand prisoners were captured.

The Italian campaign started on the Salerno beachhead at 0330, 9 September 1943, and ceased at 1200, 2 May 1945, with the unconditional surrender of all the German and Italian military forces in Italy and southern Austria.

It was 1900 when official word reached the 363d Infantry by telephone that the war in Italy was over. This was an anticlimax because such news had been expected for days. The appalling destruction of the German military machine strewn across the Po Valley; the tightening noose on Berlin as the British, French, and Americans closed in from the west and the Russians closed in from the east told the story before the official news was received. It was evident that it would not be long before the war on the Western Front too would be over.

The news was accepted quietly and soberly. There were no large celebrations or parties. It was accepted with relief and thankfulness and work. The 363d Infantry was preparing for yet another mission—occupation.

CHAPTER 9

OCCUPATION

IT IS history how Mussolini became Italy's dictator on 30 October 1922 with the aid of his Black Shirts, how he suggested to the Italians that an empire of similar extent and importance as the ancient Roman Empire could again be ruled from Rome; how his troops invaded Ethiopia on the pretext of border outrages by Ethiopians on 3 October 1935; how Albania was added to the empire in 1939 and a military alliance made with Germany in May of the same year. On 10 June 1940 Italy joined her ally in attacking France. Several months later Italy attacked Greece from Albania but was beaten back during the winter fighting at which time the Germans swept through Yugoslavia and Greece forcing both countries to sign armistices by 23 April 1941.

In Yugoslavia resistance movements against the German occupants rose. Of the two most powerful, the partisan bands led by Josip Broz (Marshal Tito) gradually grew in strength until they held parts of the country they had freed from the Germans, then slowly began to drive the enemy out of Yugoslavia. It was on 1 May 1945 that contact between British patrols and Tito's forces, now titled the Yugoslav Army of National Liberation, was made in the vicinity of Monfalcone, northeast of Venice, northwest of Trieste. Tito filed claim to the two seaports he had captured, Fiume and Trieste, in addition to the territory east of the Isonzo River his troops had taken before the end of the war. This territory was Venezia Giulia, which the 91st was ordered to occupy.

The Division was attached to the occupation forces of British Eighth Army, commanded by Major General Sir R. L. McCreery, and relieved of attachment to United States Fifth. Among the first units of the Division to move out of the Treviso area was the 1st Battalion, 363d Infantry, which entrucked for Trieste and closed into that disputed seaport early on the afternoon of 6 May at the same time that the remainder of the Regiment was also being moved east by trucks and its own transportation to the vicinity of the city of Gorizia on the Isonzo River. The 1st Battalion, once in Trieste, was attached to the 2d New Zealand Division and occupied the historic castle of San Giusto overlooking the city and harbor. The companies were billeted in good quarters.

Meanwhile the rest of the Regiment busied itself with getting established in the area south of Gorizia. The 2d Battalion set up in Merna, the 3d Battalion in Scariano; Headquarters, Cannon, and Antitank Companies at the airport east of the river; while Service Company remained on the western side of the river at Farra d'Isonzo. No sooner had the trucks been unloaded than orders were received that all installations with the exception of the 2d Battalion would be located on the western side of the river. The 2d Battalion could remain at Merna on the eastern bank south of the airport.

The move back across the river was made the morning of 9 May, by which time the 3d Battalion had closed into the town of S. Lorenzo di Mossa and the Regimental command post was established at Fraifel, a country estate about midway between S. Lorenzo and Farra d'Isonzo, where Service Company was joined by Company C, 316th Medical Battalion. Company C, 316th Engineers, moved into the village of Villanova di Farra a mile northeast while the 347th Field Artillery occupied the town of Lucinico on the western side of the Isonzo across from Gorizia. The 2d Battalion stayed in Merna; the 1st Battalion in Trieste.

The day of 9 May was recognized as VE-day, and no training was scheduled.



The 1st Battalion of the 363d Infantry and New Zealand soldiers being welcomed by civilians in Trieste.

The only activity was a move by Company K from the 3d Battalion area to the village of Cormons to guard the Division quartermaster supply dump being located there, and manning three roadblocks en route. A light training schedule was put into operation the following day although the Division remained on a tactical alert status and road patrols were active as were roadblocks which were established mainly as vehicle check points. Several days later, on 14 May, all of the units such as artillery and engineers attached to the Regiment were relieved and went back to Division control.

The training schedule was mainly for the purpose of keeping personnel occupied who were not engaged in the manning of roadblocks, on patrol, guarding installations, or on work details. A good portion of the training consisted of athletics. Baseball, softball, volleyball, boxing, wrestling, swimming, and track tournaments were organized for battalion, Regimental and Division championships. Lt. Sam L. MacCorkle and Lt. Lewis P. Ritchie were in charge of the entire athletic and recreation program assisted by Lt. Earl C. Singleton, swimming coach, Lt. John L. Mills, boxing coach, and Lt. Ross A. Notaro, track coach. Both the swimming and track teams won Division championships in competition with the other component units.

The 1st Battalion at Trieste was relieved of attachment to the 2d New Zealand Division on 20 May and rejoined the 363d Infantry during the afternoon, going into an assembly area at Vertoiba in Campi Saoti near the 2d Battalion, still on the east side of the river. That same day the entire Regiment was alerted for a possible move farther east across the river. The next day a Division field



Elements of the 363d Infantry move across the Isonzo River into Venezia Giulia, occupied by Marshal Tito's forces.

order outlining the move was received and the Regiment made reconnaissance and plans to cross the Isonzo again and occupy the area south and east of Gorizia. Company K was relieved of guarding the quartermaster dump at Cormons and rejoined the 3d Battalion. On 22 May the 1st Battalion with one platoon of tanks from Company A, 757th Tank Battalion, and a battery of three cannon attached, left the village of Vertoiba and closed into Prevacina, setting up defensive positions around the town in which they were billeted, deployed the tanks and cannon tactically, and made contact with the 3/1 Punjabi Battalion of the 10th Indian Division to the south.

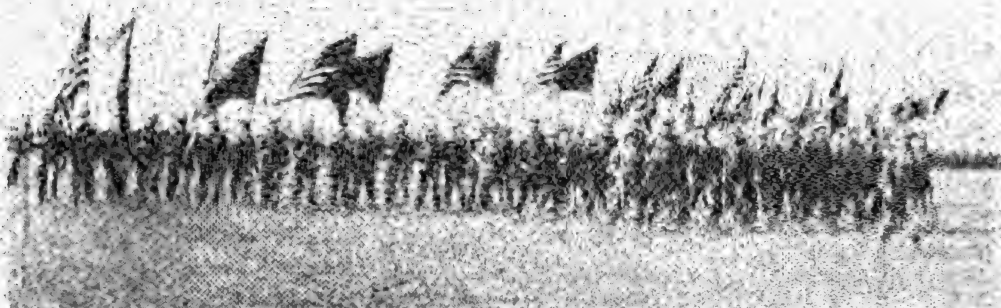
The 2d Battalion remained in position in Merna with the exception of Company G, which replaced the 1st Battalion at Vertoiba where the 347th Field Artillery Battalion and two platoons of Antitank Company joined them. Antitank Company's 3d Platoon moved into Merna with the 2d Battalion, as did Regimental Headquarters.

The 3d Battalion with two platoons of tanks from Company A, 757th Tank Battalion, one platoon of the 91st Reconnaissance Troop, and three cannon attached, moved to the town of Sambasso, which the Yugoslavs vacated, and also set up tactically to the north of the 1st Battalion.

Prior to the crisis in Venezia Giulia in May 1945, between Allied and Yugoslav forces, Field Marshal Alexander met with Marshal Tito in July 1944 and in February 1945. As a result of these meetings, the Morgan-Jovanovic Agreement was announced on 9 May 1945. It was agreed that Territory of Venezia Giulia, west of a line which includes Trieste, railways and roads from there to Austria via Gorizia-Caporetto-Tarvisio; and Pola and the anchorages of the west coast of Istria, will be under the command and control of the Supreme Allied Commander. This line has since been known as the Morgan Line.

The Regiment remained in these positions until 16 June, when the 3d Battalion received orders to move west to the town of San Andrea just south of Gorizia on the river bank. It closed in at noon and Company I was placed on an instant alert to move to the Regimental zone on the Morgan Line when called upon. Company B, 752d Tank Battalion, had relieved Company A, 757th Tank Battalion, in support of the Regiment five days earlier at 2130, 11 June.

On the morning of 25 June the entire Regiment, with the exception of Companies A, C, and D, which were outposting the Morgan Line, assembled at

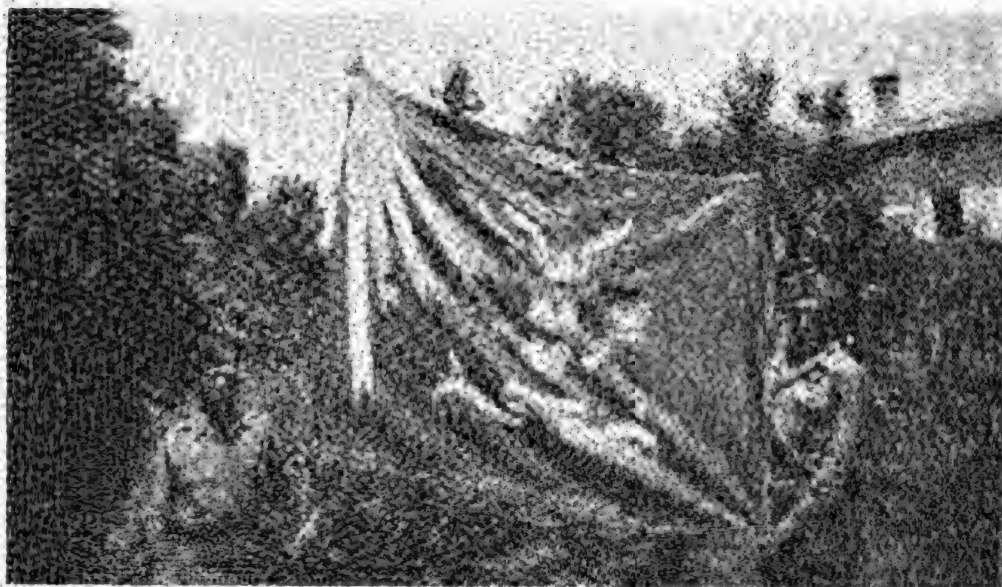


Massed colors and representatives of the units to receive the Distinguished Unit Citation assemble at the reviewing stand at Gorizia airport.

the Gorizia airport for the presentation of the Medal of Honor to Sgt. Oscar G. Johnson, Company B, by General Mark W. Clark. The general's party, consisting of Lieut. Gen. Sir John Harding, commanding British XIII Corps; Lieut. Gen. Geoffrey Keyes, II Corps commander; Maj. Gen. Livesay, Division commander; Brig. Gen. R. E. S. Williamson, Assistant Division Commander, landed on the airstrip in artillery liaison planes ten minutes before the ceremony was to start, inspected the escort and guard of honor, Company B, 361st Infantry, and moved to the reviewing stand. Here General Clark, after an address to the assembled troops, placed the ribbon and medal around Johnson's neck and asked him to join the general officers on the platform while the Regiment passed in review in the sergeant's honor.

Without a doubt the biggest thing on the minds of all during the occupation period was the important question, "When are we going home?" While the war was in progress, of course, this posed no problem. But the war was over, and each man was eager to get back to the States, his family, and the resumption of life as he had known it before joining the Army, whether it was one year or five years before. Because the Division had been given the task of occupation, it was settled that it was not going home as a unit immediately. In fact there was some question of its going home at all but eventually being sent to the Pacific and being used against the Japanese. As it turned out in an announcement by General Livesay, the 91st Division was definitely slated for the Pacific and more fighting, but would first, at some future date, return to the States for training, re-equipping, and reorganization.

Through the point system the men who had been overseas longest (1 point per month), in the Army longest (1 point per month), had the most awards (5 points for each battle star, combat decoration), or were fathers (12 points for each child under 18 years of age) were put on top of the individual list to go home and be discharged. All these men with high scores were transferred out of the 91st Division to staging areas to await transportation to divisions which were soon to go home as units. In Italy it was the 85th Division which was selected to leave the theater first to return to the States; therefore the high-point men of the 91st Division were absorbed by the 85th Division, which sent an equal number of low-point men to the 91st Division in exchange. This process enabled the total strength of the 85th Division to have enough points for discharge, and the unit could be inactivated upon arrival in the States. Conversely, the 91st Division now had all low-point men who would



Colors of the 369d Infantry. The battle streamers read: Combat Infantry Regiment, Lorraine; Meuse-Argonne; Ypres-Lys; Rome-Arno; North Apennines; Po Valley. (Photo by Stone)

not be discharged for a certain time yet, and a minimum of new personnel would have to be added before the trip across the Pacific.

This process settled the question of "When am I going home?" ("Any day—I've got enough points," or "When the points required come down to my level") but raised another: "If I don't have enough points to go home with the high-point men, then it follows that I will probably go when the Division goes. When does the Division go?"

No one knew the answer to this for a long time, or if they did they weren't talking. Light training, schools on elementary, high, and university level were maintained, passes to Rome, Florence, Venice, Genoa, Milan, Lake Como, Lake Maggiore, and other places were available, duty was light and kept to an irreducible minimum. Occupation went on and beneath were always rumors of when ships bearing the Division would sail from Italy. Slowly but surely there were indications that perhaps it wouldn't be too long. Orders came for so many vehicles to be turned in this week, so many next week, so many more the following week. Crews were ordered sent to boxing and crating schools to learn how to pack equipment. It certainly looked as if the second question was being answered.

On Friday, 27 July, Lieut. Gen. Lucian K. Truscott, Fifth Army commander, awarded the entire 3d Battalion the Distinguished Unit Citation at a Division review held at the Gorizia airport for its part in the heroic struggle for Monticelli, whose fall caused the initial breakthrough of the Gothic Line. At the same time a like award was presented to the 3d Battalion, 361st Infantry, for its conquest of the town of Livergnano on Highway 65 the previous October.

Then one day the big question was answered point-blank and concretely by an order for an advance party of 5 officers and 25 enlisted men to move south by vehicle to the Volturno staging area near Naples, there to prepare for the arrival of the remainder of the Regiment. They were to leave Sunday, 29 July. The unit was going home!

First



CHAPTER 10

HOME AGAIN

MOTOR convoys and trains closed the Regiment into the Volturmo staging area 70 miles north of Naples where final preparations for the return to the United States were made. The remainder of transportation, guns, helmets and other equipment now not necessary were turned in; such equipment as was needed for future functioning of the Regiment was boxed and crated, numbered, and taken down to the port to await the arrival of the ships.

Meanwhile spectacular events were taking place in the Pacific Theater. Japan was being pounded to her knees by daily raids of 2000 fighters and bombers based on close-by Okinawa and Iwo Jima. The first atomic bomb leveled the city of Hiroshima on 6 August; the second, Nagasaki, two days later. That same day, 8 August, Russia leaped into the war and spread out over Manchuria. On 10 August Japan was ready to accept the terms of the Potsdam Conference. The war was over 14 August 1945.

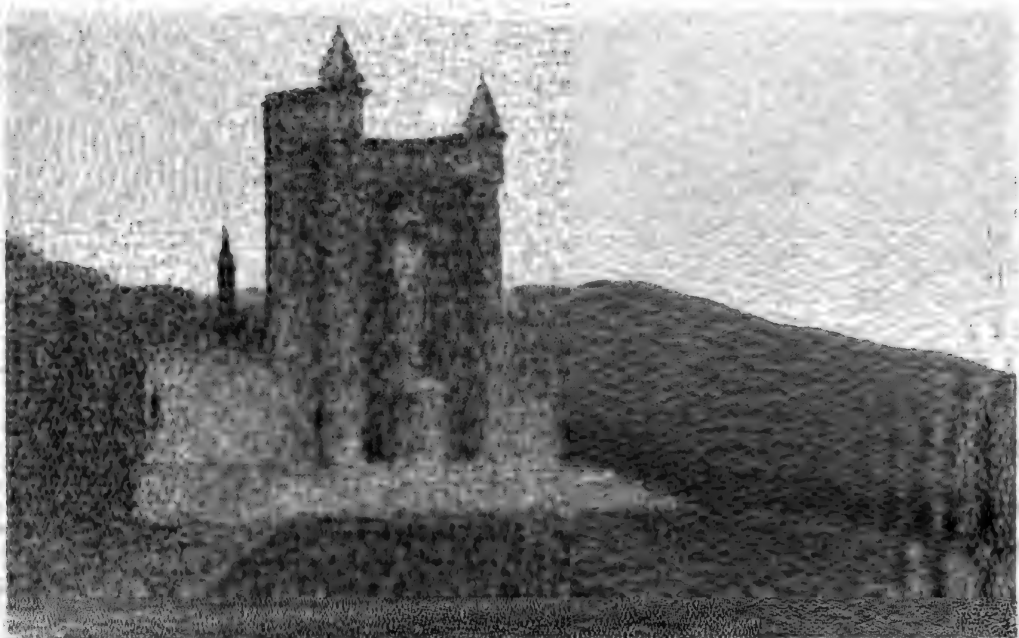
That same day the first elements of a jubilant 363d Infantry boarded ship at Naples harbor with the knowledge that for them combat and all that it implied was over. The first ship, the *Pauchaug Victory*, with Headquarters Company, Service Company, Antitank Company, Cannon Company, the entire 3d Battalion, Company B, 54 men from Company E, 54 men from the Antitank Platoon, 1st Battalion, 91st Signal Company, and part of the 316th Medical Battalion left Italy at 1735 on 14 August. They arrived at Hampton Roads, Newport News, Virginia, at noon, 25 August.

The 1st Battalion, less Company B, left Naples 21 August on the *Kingston Victory*, arriving at Hampton Roads 30 August. The remainder of the Regiment, the 2d Battalion, sailed on the *Mount Vernon* 28 August, arriving 10 September.

Moving upon arrival in the States to Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia, a dis-



Homeward bound aboard the SS *Pauchaug Victory*, 25 August 1945.



Prior to leaving Italy the members of the Regiment decided to erect a memorial in Italy in honor of the men of the 363d who had fallen in combat. The complete cost was borne by those who were with the Regiment at the time. The Memorial stands near the village of l'Uomo Morto, just south of Il Giogo Pass.

tance of about 20 miles, the groups were billeted, processed, and moved out to separation centers closest to their respective homes. Here they were given thirty days of temporary duty at home for rest and recuperation, which was lengthened to forty-five days. When this temporary duty was completed the individual reported back to his separation center and, if he had sufficient points, was discharged. The remaining men and officers, totaling about one-third of the Regiment's authorized strength, reported to Camp Rucker, Alabama, the Division's assembly station, where they were discharged as the number of points required went down, or were transferred to other units to await discharge in accordance with the War Department schedule.

At midnight, 27 November 1945, the 363d Infantry was inactivated mission completed. The Regiment, which had written a heroic chapter through the campaigns of Lorraine, Meuse-Argonne, and Ypres-Lys in France and Belgium in World War I, had brilliantly fought through the Rome-Arno, North Apennines, and Po Valley campaigns in Italy in World War II. The second chapter, as proud in achievement as the first, was finished.

HONOR ROLL
OF
PERSONNEL KILLED IN ACTION

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- Tice, Gary P., (*C*)
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Mrs. Anna McCreary
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- Gonzales, John H.
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- Halloway, Ollie J.
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- Southern, Dean H.
Mrs. Treva Southern
Mingo, Iowa



*"Conspicuous Gallantry and Intrepidity at the Risk of His Own Life,
Above and Beyond the Call of Duty."*



MEDAL OF HONOR

WAR DEPARTMENT

Washington 25, D. C., 19 July 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NO. 58

* * *

Sergeant *Oscar G. Johnson* (Army serial No. 36403548) (then private first class), Company B, 363d Infantry, Army of the United States, practically single-handedly protected the left flank of his company's position near Scarperia, Italy, from 16 to 18 September 1944 in the offensive to break the Germans' Gothic Line. Company B was the extreme left assault unit of the corps. The advance was stopped by heavy fire from Monticelli Ridge, and the company took cover behind an embankment. Private *Johnson*, a mortar gunner, having expended his ammunition, assumed the duties of a rifleman. As leader of a squad of seven men, he was ordered to establish a combat post 50 yards to the left of the company to cover its exposed flank. Repeated enemy counterattacks, supported by artillery, mortar, and machine-gun fire from the high ground to his front, had by the afternoon of 16 September killed or wounded all of his men. Collecting weapons and ammunition from his fallen comrades, in the face of hostile fire, he held his exposed position and inflicted heavy casualties upon the enemy, who several times came close enough to throw hand grenades. On the night of 16-17 September, the enemy launched his heaviest attack on Company B, putting his greatest pressure against the lone defender on the left flank. Despite mortar fire which crashed about him and machine-gun bullets which whipped the crest of his shallow trench, Private *Johnson* stood erect and repulsed the attack with grenades and small-arms fire. He remained awake and on the alert throughout the night, frustrating all attempts at infiltration. On 17 September, 25 German soldiers surrendered to him. Two men, sent to reinforce him that afternoon, were caught in a devastating mortar and artillery barrage. With no thought for his own safety, Private *Johnson* rushed to the shell hole where they lay half buried and seriously wounded, covered their position by his fire, and assisted a Medical Corps man in rendering aid. That night he secured their removal to the rear and remained on watch until his company was relieved. Five companies of a German paratroop regiment had been repeatedly committed to the attack on Company B without success. Twenty dead Germans were found in front of his position.

By his heroic stand and utter disregard for personal safety, Private *Johnson* was in large measure responsible for defeating the enemy's attempts to turn the exposed left flank.



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S/Sgt. William A. Montooth, Co. L
1st Lt. Harry L. Brown, Co. L



SILVER STAR MEDAL

"For Gallantry in Action"

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Bunte, Albert G., 2d Lt.
Castillo, Ines G., Pfc.
Christopher, James, T/5 ★
Cousino, Edsol J., Pvt.
Edwards, Theodore F., Capt.
Freggiaro, Joseph P., 1st Lt.
Godfrey, Arthur L., Sgt.
Goe, Ralph H., S/Sgt.
Goodwin, Ernest L., T/5
Hall, Donnie B., T/5
Hernandez, Ralph, Pfc.
Kelch, Clarence J.,¹ T/5
Marcum, Wade H., Pvt.
Meyners, Ferdinand H., T/5
Mizerski, Walter W., Pfc.
McIlhargey, James D., Cpl.
McNabb, Dale M., Pfc.
Parinella, Joseph J., T/3
Petroff, Stoian V., Pfc.
Platt, Hancel D., Pvt.
Plummer, Dennis M., T/3
Reels, Haskel M., Pfc.
Reynolds, Fred R., T/4
Rocco, Arthur, T/5
Turner, William F., Pfc. ★

Service Company

Adams, Dewane J., Cpl.
Hixson, Walter G., S/Sgt.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion

Woods, Ralph N., Lt. Col.

Company A

Cioci, Richard A., S/Sgt.
Cochran, John V., Sgt.
Higdon, Joseph D., S/Sgt.

Miller, Rex D., Pvt.
Notaro, Ross A., 1st Lt.
Regner, William J., Capt.
Tharp, Charles D., 2d Lt.

Company B

Blunt, Roger W., Sgt.
Bryant, Miller J., Pvt.
Coady, Thomas A., S/Sgt.
Drazkowski, Frank, T/Sgt. ★
Dunham, Gerald L., Pvt.
Garner, Alonza J., Pfc.
Giddings, Carl R., 2d Lt.
Katz, Norman P., Pfc.
Land, Larry L., S/Sgt.
Menchaca, Rudy, Pvt.
Metheny, Ralph J., Pfc.
Moore, Thomas K., Pfc.
Murphy, Charles J., 2d Lt.
McCarthy, Daniel T., Pfc.
Rosellini, Bruno, 1st Lt.
Smart, Delphard E., Pfc.
Starr, John C., Pvt.
Tanksley, Jephtha C., 1st Lt.
Van Oss, Orval R., Sgt.

Company C

Gifford, Harry F., Pfc.
Inman, Lloyd J., Capt.
Johnson, Howard T., Jr., Pvt.
Kern, Benjamin, Pfc.
Lile, Edward F., Pfc.
Silva, Raymond A., Pfc.

Company D

Conn, Earl R., Sgt.
Gallop, Salvatore P., Pfc.
Jenkins, Horace B., S/Sgt.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion

Branch, Albert D., T/Sgt.

★Oak Leaf Cluster.

¹Posthumous awards are indicated in *italic*.

Company E

Akers, Alfred, Sgt.
Anderson, Cletus O., Pfc.
Baker, Beryl H., S/Sgt.
Benckart, Robert G., 1st Lt.
Carlin, Thomas A., Pfc.
Culler, Lewis B., Pvt.
Eckard, Chester R., 1st Lt.
Frederick, Alvin P., Pfc.
Garretson, Richard T., S/Sgt.
Greenburg, Morris, Pvt.
Kovas, March P., 1st Lt.
Mudd, Elbert S., Pfc.
Ritter, Crum M., Pvt.
Sprick, Ysbrand, S/Sgt.
Swanton, George E., Jr., Pfc.
Young, Fred D., Pfc.

Company F

Brown, Arthur W., S/Sgt.
Crews, Robert F., S/Sgt.
Eisfeldt, Henry A., Pfc.
England, Marvin D., Pfc.
Willis, Albert J., Jr., Pfc.

Company G

Bargsten, Klaus W., Pvt.
Blum, Carl L., 1st Lt.
Eckroat, Virgil O., S/Sgt.
Flesher, Charles W., 1st Lt.
Jopke, Henry C., Pfc.
McDermott, James L., T/Sgt. ★
Sanchez, David L., S/Sgt.
Smith, Cecil L., Pvt.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3d Battalion

Muller, Robert F., Capt.
Wessendorff, Joseph C., Capt.
Long, Glen C., Lt. Col.

Company I

Callaghan, John E., 2d Lt.
Diner, Irving, S/Sgt.
Hambrick, William R., 1st Lt.
Hyland, Frank T., Capt.
Jewkes, Rex W., Pfc. ★
Kasney, James J., 1st Lt.
King, Martin, Jr., Pfc.
Leath, Don C., S/Sgt.

Matthews, Claude E., T/Sgt.
Paris, Francis R., Pfc.
Wilson, Leonce L., Pfc.
Wright, William V., 1st Lt.
Yepez, Gildo R., Pfc.

Company K

Bothman, Stanley F., T/Sgt.
Brooks, James C., Pfc.
Clayton, Arvil O., Pvt.
Crawford, Raymond R., Sgt.
Garcia, Fernando C., Pfc.
Harding, James J., Pfc.
Harze, Charles H., Pvt.
Hockreiter, Francis, Pvt.
Kettman, Julius C., Pfc.
Meyers, Houston O., Pvt.
Nelson, Earl T., Pfc.
Quale, Clayton J., Pvt.
Saylor, Daniel D., Sgt.
Taylor, Jesse L., Pfc.
Thompson, Theodore R., Sgt.

Company L

Anders, James D., 1st Lt.
Bacciglieri, Louis T., Pfc.
Buchanan, Jack E., Pfc.
Curtiss, Stanley M., Sgt.
Evans, Joe M., Jr., Capt.
Eyherabide, Stephen P., 1st Lt.
Martin, William R., T/Sgt.
McLaren, Hugh D., Pfc.
Olson, Lyle L., 2d Lt.
Osenbaugh, Walter M., Pvt.
Ray, William G., T/Sgt.
Stewart, Thomas W., T/Sgt.

Company M

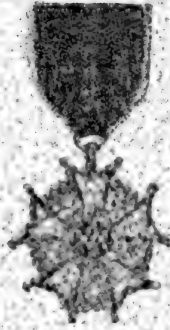
Blakeney, James B., Pfc.
Brooks, James F., S/Sgt.
Caruso, Carmel, Pfc.
Finnell, Louis C., T/Sgt.
Malec, Frank J., Sgt.
Martin, Eugene C., Sgt.
Noakes, Ray W., S/Sgt.
Ocasio, Fermin V., Pfc.

ATTACHED UNITS

347th Field Artillery Battalion

Brown, David A., Pvt., Btry. A
Bunnell, George D., Jr., Capt., Hq. Btry.

★Oak Leaf Cluster.



LEGION OF MERIT

"For Exceptionally Meritorious Conduct in Performance of Outstanding Services"

S/Sgt. Francis A. Reibe, Headquarters
 Col. W. F. Magill, Headquarters
 Maj. Floyd V. Pinnick, Headquarters
 T/Sgt. Edward Loesch, Service Co.
 Capt. Ernest H. Land, Cannon Co.
 S/Sgt. Raymond Ferguson, Hq., 1st Bn.

S/Sgt. Leon Weckstein, Hq., 1st Bn.
 1st Sgt. George Reid, Co. B
 Cpl. Curtis Jernigan, Hq., 3d Bn.
 1st Sgt. Rinaldo Antinone, Hq., 3d Bn.
 Lt. Col. Ralph N. Woods, Hq., 1st Bn.
 Sgt. Duane F. Millard, Co. B

Attached Units

347TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Capt. Thomas L. Alexander, Jr., Hq. Btry	Lt. Col. Woodrow L. Lynn, Hq.
T/Sgt. Harvey T. Driessen, Hq. Btry	Major Flake L. McHaney, Bn. Hq.
M/Sgt. Vander White, Service Btry	



SOLDIER'S MEDAL

"For Heroism Not Involving Actual Conflict With the Enemy"

Sgt. Ben Gerhardt, Co. H	Sgt. Emil V. Moldovan, Co. L
1st Sgt. Rudolf C. Kalmbach, Co. K	Pfc. Frederick W. Nelson, Co. M
Sgt. Gilbert Misquez, Co. G	Pvt. Earl T. Postell, Co. E
T/5 Robert D. Starnes, Co. H	

Attached Units

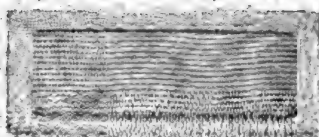
347TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

T/5 Arthur C. Aguilar, Btry. B

316TH MEDICAL BATTALION

Pfc. Leeroy Bentley, Co. C

T/5 Grady Pepper, Co. C



DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Washington 25, D. C., 8 October 1947

GENERAL ORDERS
NO. 6

BATTLE HONORS. As authorized by Executive Order 9396 (sec. I, WD Bul. 22, 1943), superseding Executive Order 9075 (sec. III, WD Bul. 11, 1942), the following unit is cited under the provisions of AR 260-15 in the name of the President of the United States as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction. The citation reads as follows:

The *363d Infantry Regiment* is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action from 12 to 19 September 1944 in the assault upon the German Gothic Line near Monticelli, Italy. Chosen to make the main effort to penetrate the Gothic Line in the area of Il Giogo Pass, in order that the divisions of the American II Corps could debouch into the Po Valley and outflank the vaunted Futa Pass positions along the Florence-Bologna highway, the *363d Infantry Regiment* stormed the bastion of Monticelli. The strongly prepared defenses on this rocky, rugged, and steep mountain feature guarding the pass were manned by the elite German 4th Paratroop Division. Supported by air bombing and intense artillery concentrations, two battalions struck initially without dislodging the enemy from their deeply dug, fortified positions. Small units began the slow, tedious process of working around one enemy position after another to gain a foothold. The 1st Battalion made the initial penetration and held out against strong counterattacks. Despite the fanatical defense, the enemy was driven back as elements of the division maintained constant pressure and cracked one strongpoint after another. With all battalions in the line, the *363d Infantry Regiment* withstood the intense enemy fires and counterattacks. As the mountain mass of Monticelli fell to the *363d Infantry Regiment* and the companion Mt. Altuzzo capitulated to units of a neighboring regiment, all enemy resistance in this portion of the Gothic Line collapsed and the road to the north was open. In gaining the vital objective, the *363d Infantry Regiment* displayed heroism, endurance, and teamwork in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army of the United States. (This citation supersedes the citation of the *3d Battalion, 363d Infantry Regiment*, as published in General Orders 89, Headquarters Fifth Army, 10 July 1945, as approved by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces, Mediterranean Theater. Par. 3, WD General Orders 123, 1945, pertaining to the citation of the *3d Battalion, 363d Infantry Regiment*, is rescinded.)

MERITORIOUS SERVICE UNIT PLAQUE

HEADQUARTERS 91ST INFANTRY DIVISION
UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 91

5 April 1945

GENERAL ORDERS
NO. 21

IV—AWARD OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE UNIT PLAQUE

Under the provisions of War Department Circular No. 345, 23 August 1944, the Division Commander has awarded the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque to the following unit:

Service Company, 363d Infantry, 91st Infantry Division, for superior performance of duty in the accomplishment of exceptionally difficult tasks in Italy, for the period 4 July 1944 to 4 January 1945.

By command of Major General LIVESAY:

JOSEPH P. DONNOVIN
Colonel, G.S.C.
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:
C. F. PRIMM
Lt. Col., A.G.D.
Adjutant General

HEADQUARTERS 91ST INFANTRY DIVISION
UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 91

10 February 1945

GENERAL ORDERS
NO. 10

IV—AWARD OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE UNIT PLAQUE

Under the provisions of War Department Circular No. 345, 23 August 1944, the Division Commander has awarded the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque to the following unit:

Service Battery, 347th Field Artillery Battalion, 91st Infantry Division, for superior performance of duty in the accomplishment of exceptionally difficult tasks in Italy, for the period 5 July 1944 to 26 December 1944.

By command of Brigadier General HOSPITAL:

JOSEPH P. DONNOVIN
Colonel, G.S.C.
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:
C. F. PRIMM
Lt. Col., A.G.D.
Adjutant General

RECORD OF SERVICE 3 June 1944 to 2 May 1945

	<i>Dayson Line</i>	<i>In Reserve</i>	<i>Training</i>	<i>Rest</i>
91st Division	271	44	19	0
363d Infantry	183	66	37	17
1st Battalion	142	104	38	19
2d Battalion	92	156	37	18
3d Battalion	127	121	37	18

COMMENDATIONS

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
APO 464, U. S. ARMY

4 August 1944

MEMORANDUM

TO: Officers and Enlisted Men of Fifth Army

The Army Commander is pleased to transmit to all officers and men of the Fifth Army the following message from General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff, United States Army:

"Congratulations again to you and Fifth Army on capture of Leghorn and Pisa and general advance to the line of the Arno."

By command of Lieutenant General CLARK

M. F. GRANT
Colonel, A.G.D.
Adjutant General

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
APO 464, U. S. ARMY

11 August 1944

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO: Commanding General, 91st Infantry Division, APO 91, U. S. Army

1. I desire to congratulate you on the excellent showing which the 91st Division has made during its initial period in combat, and to express my appreciation for the superior fighting qualities with which your officers and enlisted men are imbued.

2. After many months of arduous training in the United States you have been given the highest test for any division—that of actual combat—and have proven yourselves to have been well prepared. I am sure that it is gratifying to all of you to find such rich reward for a long and trying training period which you were required to undergo. The fact that those divisions activated after the United States declared war, have been so effective in the initial period of combat has been a major factor in the present victories we are gaining against the enemy.

3. I am sure that you now look forward to future battles with complete confidence in their outcome. I am extremely pleased with your performance in every respect and wish you the full measure of success in your future tasks.

MARK W. CLARK
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army
Commanding

1st Ind.

HEADQUARTERS, 91ST INFANTRY DIVISION, APO 91, U. S. ARMY, 14 August 1944
TO: All Unit Commanders

1. I am highly gratified to receive the above commendation. Every officer and enlisted man in the Division is assured that the high standard of performance which has qualified the Division for the missions that it is now undertaking.

W. M. G. BRYCE
Major General
Commanding

COMMENDATIONS

HEADQUARTERS II CORPS
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
APO 19, U.S. ARMY

6 September 1944

To II Corps:

Victory is in the air and the Army Commander has entrusted you with the decisive role in this operation. This is an honor which you have won by your aggressiveness, your fighting qualities, your perseverance and your loyalty to your comrades, your superiors and your cause—in brief, by your Will to Win. Your gallant comrades of the IV Corps, the XIII Corps and the Air Corps through weeks of combat and sacrifice have set the stage, softened the enemy and prepared him for you to administer the knockout. Hence there is neither need nor time for sparring. Time is working against you since approaching unfavorable weather may be the bell that will save him and leave you with nothing better than a draw. Tear in and make this the final round.

Your objective, your goal, is the complete defeat of the enemy—not the capture of this or that hill which is but the removal of an obstacle in your path to another Speedy Victory.

No greater honor could fall to me than the privilege of commanding you in this operation and of sharing in your victories.

I have every confidence in you.

May God bless you and reward your efforts and sacrifices with your greatest victory.

GEOFFREY KEYES
Major General, USA
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS II CORPS
APO 19, U.S. ARMY

7 October 1944

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Commanding General, 91st Infantry Division, APO, U. S. Army.

I wish to take this opportunity to express, through you, my appreciation for the fine work of the 363d Infantry Regiment. With but two brief days out of the line, the 363d has just completed twenty-three days of continuous combat. It has met and defeated a determined enemy on most difficult ground of his own choosing. Monticelli, Casanova, M. Freddi, Monte Piano, and, finally, Ca Di Bosco have fallen before its steady advance. The 363d is to be congratulated upon its successes—its determined and conquering spirit despite the advent of unfavorable weather and the difficult terrain.

GEOFFREY KEYES
Major General, USA
Commanding

1st Ind.

HEADQUARTERS, 91ST INFANTRY DIVISION, APO 91, U. S. ARMY, 9 October 1944.
TO: Commanding Officer, 363d Infantry.

1. I pass this well merited commendation to you and through you to the officers and men of the 363d Infantry, with a feeling of gratification and pride.

2. Please have this document read to the men of your command at the earliest possible opportunity.

WM. G. LIVESAY
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding

COMMENDATIONS

261

HEADQUARTERS ARMY GROUND FORCES
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

20 October 1945

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation.

TO : Commanding General, 91st Infantry Division.

The officers and men of the Powder River Division, which is now being inactivated, will forever be honored and cherished by a grateful nation. Your determined efforts in the great battle against Nazi tyranny will stand through the years as a warning to those who would break the peace.

The 91st Infantry Division, after your training in Oregon, entered combat on the Italian front in the summer of 1944, and during the vicious campaigns which followed you fought brilliantly and decisively. At the Arno River, in the capture of Leghorn, during the terrific assault against the Gothic Line, and in the final drive across the Po Valley, your troops won for themselves the respect of the enemy and the tributes of the Allied World.

With your inactivation, many of your division will receive new assignments, and I am confident they will serve as loyally and devotedly as they did in battle, until the need has passed for a large military establishment in our country.

It is for me a deep privilege to have this opportunity to commend you, your officers and your men for the superb part you played in the conquest of the enemy. The memory of your heroic deeds will never die, as long as men are willing to fight for freedom.

JACOB L. DEVERS
General, USA
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS, 91ST INFANTRY DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
APO 91, UNITED STATES ARMY

18 April 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Commanding Officer, 363d Infantry.

1. The following message from the Corps Commander has just been received.
"Personal Keyes to Livesay. Congratulations on the capture of M. Posigliano and 407. Keep up the fine work."
2. I am highly pleased and gratified with this splendid day's work.

W.M. G. LIVESAY
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS II CORPS
APO 19, U. S. ARMY

30 April 1945

TO: The Officers and Men of II Corps.

The German Army in Italy has been destroyed.

Spearheading the overwhelming drive of the Fifth Army, you have played a major role in this destruction. In addition to capturing over 37 thousand of the enemy's finest fighting troops, our hospitals are filled with his wounded, and your zone of advance is strewn with his dead and his war material.

You drove through the strongest enemy defensive positions in North Italy, you forced the crossings of the Po, Adige, and Brenta Rivers with such speed and relentlessness that you slashed through the main routes of retreat of the fleeing German Army, encircling great numbers of his demoralized troops.

COMMENDATIONS

On the eve of the regrouping of our Armies for the closing phase of the Italian campaign, I want to express to each of you my appreciation of all that you have accomplished as individuals and as a team, and my pride in having commanded you in your historic victory.

GEOFFREY KEYES
Lieutenant General, U.S.A.
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS 15TH ARMY GROUP

3 May 1945

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

I take great pleasure in conveying to each American officer and enlisted man in the 15th Army Group the following message received by me from the President of the United States:

"On the occasion of the final brilliant victory of the Allied armies in Italy in imposing unconditional surrender upon the enemy, I wish to convey to the American forces under your command and to you personally the appreciation and gratitude of the President and of the people of the United States. No praise is adequate for the heroic achievements and magnificent courage of every individual under your command during this long and trying campaign.

"America is proud of the essential contribution made by your American Armies to the final Allied victory in Italy. Our thanks for your gallant leadership and the deathless valor of your men.

"Signed: HARRY S. TRUMAN"

MARK W. CLARK
General, USA
Commanding

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
2 MAY 1945

SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY
SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND AIRMEN OF THE ALLIED FORCES
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN THEATRE

After nearly two years of hard and continuous fighting which started in Sicily in the summer of 1943, you stand today as the victors of the Italian Campaign.

You have won a victory which has ended in the complete and utter rout of the German armed forces in the Mediterranean. By clearing Italy of the last Nazi aggressor, you have liberated a country of over 40,000,000 people.

Today the remnants of a once proud Army have laid down their arms to you—close on a million men with all their arms, equipment and impedimenta.

You may well be proud of this great and victorious campaign which will long live in history as one of the greatest and most successful ever waged.

No praise is high enough for you sailors, soldiers, airmen and workers of the United Forces in Italy for your magnificent triumph.

My gratitude to you and my admiration is unbounded and only equalled by the pride which is mine in being your Commander-in-Chief.

H. R. ALEXANDER
Field Marshal
Supreme Allied Commander,
Mediterranean Theater

COMMENDATIONS

263

HEADQUARTERS 15TH ARMY GROUP

To the Soldiers of the 15th Army Group:

With a full and grateful heart I hail and congratulate you in this hour of complete victory over the German enemy, and join with you in thanks to Almighty God.

Yours has been a long, hard fight—the longest in this war of any Allied troops fighting on the Continent of Europe. You men of the Fifth and Eighth Armies have brought that fight to a successful conclusion by recent brilliant offensive operations which shattered the German forces opposing you. Their surrender was the inevitable course left to them, they had nothing more to fight with in Italy.

You have demonstrated something new and remarkable in the annals of organized warfare: You have shown that a huge fighting force composed of units from many countries with diverse languages and customs, inspired, as you have always been, with a devotion to the cause of freedom, can become an effective and harmonious fighting team.

This teamwork which has carried us to victory has included in full measure the supporting arms which have worked with us throughout the campaign. The services that have supplied us have overcome unbelievable obstacles and have kept us constantly armed, equipped and fed. The magnificent support which we have always had from the Allied air and naval forces in this theater has written a new page in the history of cooperative combat action.

Our exultation in this moment is blended with sorrow as we pay tribute to the heroic Allied soldiers who have fallen in battle in order that this victory might be achieved. The entire world will forever honor their memory.

The war is not over. The German military machine has been completely crushed by the splendid campaigns waged by you and your colleagues of the Western and Russian fronts. There remains the all important task of inflicting a similar complete defeat on our remaining enemy—Japan. Each one of us in the 15th Army Group must continue without pause to give the full measure of effort to that task wherever we may be called upon to serve.

I am intensely proud of you all and of the honor which I have had of commanding such invincible troops. My thanks go to each of you for your capable, aggressive, and loyal service which has produced this great victory.

Men of the 15th Army Group, I know you will face the task ahead with the same magnificent, generous and indomitable spirit you have shown in this long campaign. Forward, to final Victory. God bless you all.

MARK W. CLARK
General, USA
Commanding

May 1945

HEADQUARTERS MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS APO 512, UNITED STATES ARMY

7 May 1945

SUBJECT: VE-Day Talk by General McNarney.
TO : All Concerned.

1. The importance of the Theater Commander's VE-Day radio address to the troops of this theater cannot be over-estimated. Not only does it contain General McNarney's personal message to every officer and soldier in the theater but it also constitutes the basic theater redeployment policy on which he desires that every individual have information.

2. In order that all officers and soldiers receive the Theater Commander's message, it is directed that at the first formation following receipt of this directive the message be read in person by the commander to his assembled organization.

By command of General McNARNEY:

C. W. CHRISTENBERRY
Colonel, A.G.D.
Adjutant General

VE-DAY TALK BY GENERAL McNARNEY

To the members of the armed forces in Italy:

The war with Germany is over. The German Army and the German Air Force have been crushed. To you members of the Allied ground, sea, air and service forces who have won this magnificent victory—my congratulations. For your courageous sacrifice and unfaltering devotion to duty, I cannot adequately express my admiration and appreciation.

Now only Japan remains. By crushing Germany, we are free at last to unleash our full might against Japan—to strike quickly and hard—to bring this long war to an end.

Your accomplishments in the Mediterranean Theater are now history.

The successful landings in Algeria and French Morocco on November 8, 1942, paved the way for the first major Axis setback in the West. In the Tunisian Campaign, which followed, American, British and French troops drove the Germans out of North Africa and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. It was here that Hitler's famous Afrika Korps was destroyed.

We were assured control of the Mediterranean by the swift prosecution of the Sicilian Campaign. We knocked Mussolini's Italy out of the war.

At Salerno the Allies earned their first firm foothold on Hitler's European fortress, and from here, the Fifth and Eighth Armies launched their conquest of the rugged Italian Peninsula.

The fall of Naples, the bitter campaign of the Hitler and the Gustav Lines, Cassino, Anzio, and the liberation of Rome will always be remembered as examples of high courage and great skill.

After Rome, this theater launched the full-scale invasion of Southern France. In Italy our forces continued to drive the enemy north past the great port of Leghorn, past Pisa, Florence, Ancona and Ravenna. The Gothic Line defenses were pierced.

During the winter and early spring our Air Force sealed in the enemy by blocking the Brenner and other exit routes. Transport of all types and their fuel supplies were destroyed by our air attacks. This plus the vigorous action of our ground forces enabled us to hold twenty-five German divisions between the Alps and the Apennines and prevented the enemy from diverting these badly needed troops to his Western Front in France or to the Eastern Front to stem the Soviet advance. By April our forces had overcome the difficult mountainous terrain and burst forth to destroy the enemy in the Po Valley. The accomplishments of our Armed Forces in the Po Valley and in Northern Italy are so well known that I need not recount the details of our final triumph.

It is a great tribute to our fighting men in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations that these victories have been won in spite of the fact that we have had no substantial superiority in numbers over the enemy, except in the air.

Throughout all of our operations, our American troops have fought and worked side by side with soldiers from nearly every Allied nation—British, French, Australians, Canadians, New Zealanders, Indians, South Africans, Palestinians, Brazilians, Poles and Italians. It has been an international army battling through mud and snow, heat and dust, over a nightmare battleground of mountains and marshes. The spirit of cooperation that existed here during the darkest hours of war will be a model for a world at peace.

This spirit of cooperation has extended straight through our entire Mediterranean Campaign—among our Allies and among our Armies, our Navies and our Air Forces.

The Allied Navies have established a superb record in conveying enormous tonnages of supplies to us and in supporting the flanks of the Fifth and Eighth Armies with effective bombardment. They have kept the Mediterranean clear of enemy shipping and enemy mines, and they have provided safe passage for convoys headed for Russia through the Black Sea, and for the East through the Suez Canal.

The Allied Air Forces achieved an early and a complete mastery of the air. Their progressive destruction and dislocation of the enemy's military, transportation, and industrial systems, coupled with their magnificent support of our ground forces in the field of battle, contributed greatly to our victory.

Now that the enemy has been defeated, I know that there is one question uppermost in your minds: When are we going home to the United States?

My answer will be disappointing to many of you, but it would be unfair to you if I were not absolutely frank in answering that question—even if it is unpleasant.

For most of you, your return to civilian life will come only when Japan has been utterly and finally defeated. With Italy and Germany out of the war, two-thirds of the

job has been done. A big one-third remains to be done. Japan brought us into this war by her sneak raid on Pearl Harbor. Until Japan has been crushed, the war cannot be over for us.

It is the plan of the War Department to discharge soldiers as rapidly as the military situation and the availability of shipping will permit. We are just as anxious to return to the United States and to hasten your demobilization as you are anxious to be returned and demobilized.

All troops who have participated in the war have been divided by the War Department into three general groups for purposes of future disposition:

The first group will consist of men to be retained overseas and required for occupation, the tremendous job of reestablishing law and order in conquered Europe, and of moving out supplies and breaking up installations.

In the second group will come combat and service troops who will be transferred to active theaters in the Far East. Some in this group will go directly from Italy to the Pacific. Some have already gone. Others will go via the United States.

The third group will consist of men not needed in European Theaters or in the Pacific. This group will be returned to the United States and, if not needed there for military jobs, will be demobilized. I honestly doubt that this last group will be large. And looking at the situation today, I seriously doubt that those who are slated to be demobilized first will be able to leave Italy in any great numbers for several months. It is quite possible that some of the personnel earmarked for relatively early demobilization will be required to remain here for several months to help out with the military government of liberated Europe.

I know that all of you are tired of war. Your campaigns have been long and hard. You have suffered intensely through some of the fiercest fighting, the most treacherous weather, and over the most difficult terrain in modern warfare. You have lost many of your comrades in air, sea and ground battles.

It is fitting today to pay tribute to those comrades. Because of them the victory for which they fought and died must not be meaningless. We, the living, must remain true in the years ahead to principles for which they made the supreme sacrifice.

For those who will never see their homes or families again, we must fight on. For them we must achieve a world victory so total and complete that what has happened to them and to us can never happen again. For them we must see this global war through to a complete victory.

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
APO 464, US ARMY

6 May 1945

SUBJECT: Congratulatory Messages.
TO : Members of the Fifth Army.

The Army Commander takes great pleasure in forwarding to all members of the Fifth Army the following congratulatory messages:

From Prime Minister Churchill:

"I rejoice in the magnificently planned and executed operation of 15th Group of Armies which are resulting in the complete destruction or capture of all enemy forces south of the Alps. That you and General Mark Clark should have been able to accomplish these tremendous and decisive results against a superior number of enemy divisions, after you have made great sacrifices of whole Armies for the Western Front, is indeed another proof of your genius for war and of intimate brotherhood-in-arms between British Commonwealth and Imperial Forces and those of the United States. Never I suppose have so many nations advanced and manoeuvred in one line victoriously. The British-Indians, Poles, Jews, Brazilians and strong Force of Liberated Italians have all marched together in that high comradeship and unity of men fighting for freedom and for the deliverance of mankind. This great final battle in Italy will long stand out in history as one of the most famous episodes in this second World War. Pray give my heart felt congratulations to all your Commanders and principal Officers of all services and above all to the valiant and ardent troops whom they led with so much skill."

COMMENDATIONS

From Secretary of War Stimson:

"I am proud of the fine fighting record of the Fifth Army, in which you and every one of its soldiers have special reason to exalt after your complete victory. The mission of the Fifth Army has been one of the most difficult ever assigned to the American Arms. The distinction with which you have accomplished your arduous tasks has added new glory to army tradition. I join a grateful nation in applauding the courage and skill that you have shown. Please convey my personal congratulations to General Crittenberger and Keyes, to your Staff, Commanders, and to your Troops."

From General Marshall, Chief of Staff, U. S. Army:

"Congratulations on the splendid success already achieved in your final campaign to destroy the German Armies in Italy. Please give General Truscott and his Corps and Division Commanders and their men my personal thanks and congratulations especially to those units who have so long borne the burden of the battles since the landing at Salerno."

*From the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Forces in Europe,
General Eisenhower:*

"For the magnificent way in which your efforts have contributed to our own successes, please accept my heartiest congratulations as well as my thanks. In spite of great difficulties, it looks as if you have a real victory achieved. To you all, more power."

*From General Joseph T. McNarney, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander,
Mediterranean Theater:*

"The enemy in Italy has surrendered unconditionally. Your magnificent victories in the spring offensive left him only two alternatives: to surrender, or to die. This hour is the glorious climax of one of the greatest triumphs in the long, hard-fought war in Africa and in Europe. Your part will live always in the hearts and minds of our peoples. The attack against the enemy's so-called 'Inner Fortress' began in the Mediterranean. You have come from Alamein and from Casablanca to the Alps. After the successes in North Africa, you smashed the enemy in Tunisia. You drove him from Sicily. You invaded Italy and, despite ferocious resistance and incredibly difficult terrain and weather, you drove him back, always back. You have destroyed the best troops he possessed. At this moment of surrender he is against the Alps, helpless longer, under your blows, to defend himself. The victory is yours—you of the ground, sea and air forces of many nationalities who have fought here as a single combat team. The surrender today is to you. Now with final and overall victory in sight, let us go forward until the last foe, Japan, is crushed. Then, and not until then, will freedom-loving men and women be able to enjoy lasting peace."

From Major General John W. O'Daniel, Commanding General, 3d Infantry Division:

"Congratulations on Grand Victory."

By command of Lieutenant General TRUSCOTT:

M. F. GRANT
Colonel, A.G.D.
Adjutant General

HEADQUARTERS II CORPS
APO 19, US ARMY

In the Field
23 May 1945

SUBJECT: Message of Congratulations.

TO : Division and Separate Unit Commanders, II Corps.

It is with great pride and satisfaction that the following letter received from General Mark W. Clark, Commanding General, 15th Army Group and former Commanding General, II Corps, is published to the command:

"A year ago this month the Fifth Army, including your II Corps, was engaged in the great actions which smashed the Gustav and Hitler Lines, made possible the junction with our forces at Anzio and which led on to Rome and beyond. The part II Corps took in that drive is one I recall with great admiration, and it will become as much a part of your history as will your victorious actions in the offensive just completed. In that victory II Corps ever was in the forefront conducting its operations with skill, initiative and aggressiveness.

"You started from the Apennines, overlooking the Bologna area. You participated in the capture of Bologna, smashed across the Po, pounded through the Adige Line and swung north to meet the Seventh Army. I ask you to convey to all your officers and men the fact that I consider your operations in the past year to be in the great tradition of II Corps. Good luck to all of you."

By command of Lieutenant General KEYES:

R. A. RISDEN
Lt. Col., A.G.D.
Adjutant General

HEADQUARTERS II CORPS
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
APO 19, U. S. ARMY

7 May 1945

Major General William G. Livesay
Commanding General
91st Infantry Division

My dear General Livesay:

While I view the passing of the 91st Infantry Division from II Corps with regret, nevertheless I feel at the same time great pride at having worked with so fine a fighting force during its drive through the heavy defenses south of Bologna and across the Po Valley.

The speed and stamina shown by your officers and men in relentlessly pursuing and routing the enemy until he was forced to surrender by the thousands proves them to be soldiers of the highest caliber.

I want to congratulate you again for your splendid performance of duty while with us, and express the hope that I may count you in our ranks again in the future.

My entire Staff joins me in wishing you and the 91st the best of good luck.

Sincerely yours,

GEOFFREY KEYES
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS 91ST INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 91, UNITED STATES ARMY

10 May 1945

SUBJECT: Special Thanksgiving Services.
TO : See Distribution.

1. In commemoration of the Allied victory in Europe, it is desired that all units have a special service of thanksgiving in connection with their worship services Sunday, 13 May 1945.

2. This special recognition in the services will include appropriate scripture readings, special prayers of thanksgiving, singing of patriotic hymns and appropriate remarks in sermons delivered.

3. It is the unit commanders responsibility to see that widest publicity be given this subject and that the fullest opportunity is provided for personnel to attend services on this date.

By command of Major General LIVESAY:

JAMES G. BURKE
Capt., A.G.D.
Asst. Adj. Gen.

CASUALTIES

4 July 1944 to 30 April 1945

	<i>MIA</i>	<i>KIA</i>	<i>DOW</i>	<i>SWA</i>	<i>LWA</i>	<i>INJ</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>RTD</i>
Reg. Hq. Co.	0	4	0	4	12	1	21	9
Service Co.	0	0	0	1	6	1	8	5
Antitank Co.	0	1	1	6	7	6	21	12
Cannon Co.	0	3	0	7	10	4	24	15
Medical Det.	2	22	1	24	43	12	104	43
Hq. Co., 1st Bn.	0	5	0	6	13	3	27	12
A Co.	0	36	4	45	97	14	196	104
B Co.	1	49	6	39	93	13	201	83
C Co.	0	33	8	51	89	11	192	55
D Co.	0	1	3	7	25	5	41	23
Hq. Co., 2d Bn.	0	2	2	10	8	0	22	9
E Co.	0	30	2	51	101	5	189	84
F Co.	6	29	3	49	88	10	185	84
G Co.	1	55	3	60	104	10	233	71
H Co.	0	4	1	8	5	3	21	10
Hq. Co., 3d Bn.	0	5	0	3	15	5	28	14
I Co.	17	57	3	48	94	17	236	79
K Co.	2	39	3	45	108	11	208	76
L Co.	13	62	6	35	123	17	256	95
M Co.	0	6	0	8	16	2	32	13
TOTAL	42 ²	443	46 ¹	507 ¹	1057	150	2245	896

¹One SWA reported in April DOW 12 May.

²All have since been accounted for.

BATTALION CASUALTIES

4 July 1944 to 30 April 1945

	<i>MIA</i>	<i>KIA</i>	<i>DOW</i>	<i>SWA</i>	<i>LWA</i>	<i>INJ</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>RTD</i>
Separate Cos. ³	2	30	2	42	78	24	178	84
1st Bn.	1	124	21	148	317	46	657	277
2d Bn.	7	120	11	178	306	28	650	258
3d Bn.	32	169	12	139	356	52	760	277
TOTAL	42	443	46	507	1057	150	2245	896

³Includes Medical Detachment

MIA—Missing in Action
KIA—Killed in Action
DOW—Died of Wounds

SWA—Seriously Wounded in Action
LWA—Lightly Wounded in Action
INJ—Injured

RTD—Returned to Duty

PERSONNEL ROSTER
COMBAT TEAM 363

'363d Infantry

347th Field Artillery Battalion

Company C, 316th Medical Battalion

Company C, 316th Engineer Battalion

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KEY

BS	Bronze Star Medal	LM	Legion of Merit
DSM	Distinguished Service Cross	MOH	Medal of Honor
DSC	Distinguished Service Medal	SM	Soldiers Medal
SS	Silver Star		

This roster was made as complete as possible. A record of awards of the Purple Heart was not available when this history was written. Also, many awards of the Purple Heart were made at hospitals, aid stations, other military installations, or after men were transferred from the Regiment, of which the Regiment could have no knowledge. Therefore, Purple Heart awards have not been included.

Some awards of the Bronze Star may have been omitted. By a regulation of the War Department issued in July 1947, any individual awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge is automatically entitled to the Bronze Star.

•

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★Oak Leaf Cluster to award.

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- Stone, Hubert D., T/5
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Tenn.
- Strever, Arnold J., Pfc
Coeymans Hollow, N. Y.
- Striker, Charles J., T/4, BS
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land, Ore.
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289

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Chicago, Ill.

Battista, Francesco, Pvt
76 Fourth Place,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Bauer, Billie D., Lt
3998 S. Sherman, Englewood, Colo.

Beasley, William C., Pvt
Nampa, Idaho

Beideman, Charles H., Pfc, BS
757 George St., Norristown, Pa.

Belcher, Laurence H., Pvt
7634 N.E. Siskiyou,
Portland, Ore.

Bell, James E., Sgt
264 Weightman St., Ashland, Ore.

Bergman, Walter V., Pfc, BS
Rte. 2, Fort Recovery, Ohio

Bernstein, Harold J., S/Sgt, BS
Rte. 2, Loyal, Okla.

Bigglow, Jules E., Cpl
Wilnot, S. Dak.

Blackwell, Charles L., T/4, BS
1987 Hodiamont Ave.,
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Bland, Harvy L., Pvt
1330 Chase Ave.,
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Bond, Dale J., Pfc
Gen. Del., San Fernando,
Calif.

Botta, Sebastian V., Pfc
222 Bleecher St.,
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Bowen, Ivan L., Pfc
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Bradley, Elwood A., T/5
Conneaut, Ohio

Bradshaw, Okey, Pvt
Rte. 2, Wayne, W. Va.

Branan, John J., Pvt
806 Oak St., Klamath Falls, Ore.

Bray, Henry J., S/Sgt, BS★
Rte. 1, Vulcan, Mich.

Britten, Walter I., Capt
800 2d St. N.W.,
Minot, N. Dak.

Brown, Clarence D., Pvt
128 Devereaux, Red Bank Village, S. Portland, Me.

Brown, Leroy, Sgt, BS
3708 Dick Taylor St.,
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Brown, Roy, T/5
201 N. 4th St., Yakima, Wash.

Brzezinski, Joseph B., Sgt
109 Weder Ave.,
Mt. Pleasant, Pa.

Bubrick, Jack, T/5
2161 N. 23d St., Milwaukee, Wis.

Burke, Douglas V., Pfc, BS★
Box 76, Spooner, Wis.

Burkhart, William R., Pfc, BS
Address Unknown

 Oak Leaf Cluster to award.

- Burns, William P., Pvt
Perkins, W. Va.
Byrne, Gerald W., Sgt
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Cameron, George W., Cpl, BS
Fusston, Minn.
Caravello, Stephen J., Pvt
18 N. Brooks St.,
Madison, Wis.
Carlson, Herbert E., Pvt
219 S. 46th St., Tacoma,
Wash.
Carpenter, Henry W., Pvt
Winner, S. Dak.
Case, Robert O., Pfc
Happy-Camp, Calif.
Chambers, Elmer C., Pfc
317 Elizabeth, St. Joseph, Mo.
Chapman, Robert D., Pvt
2037 Third St., Eureka,
Calif.
Chung, Edward, Pvt
2040 Bund St., Astoria, Ore.
Clark, Clyde L., Pvt
909 Erie St., S., Massillon,
Ohio
Clement, Harold J., Pvt
108 Lexington St., Fort
Worth, Tex.
Cliff, Thomas H., Pfc
31 Phillippa Ave.,
Waukegan, Ill.
Clinton, Ervin E., Pfc
501 W. Pine, Brinkley, Ark.
Coady, Thomas A., T/Sgt,
SS, BS
2027 N. 167th St.,
Springfield, Ill.
Cole, Vincent J., S/Sgt, BS
398 E. 18th St.,
Brooklyn, N. Y.
Conway, Victor J., Pfc, BS
513 Ash St., Baraboo, Wis.
Corder, Lloyd A., Pvt
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Corn, William P., Pfc
718 E. Market St.,
Louisville, Ky.
Costa, Tony G., Cpl, BS
360 Floravista St.,
Sunnyvale, Calif.
Cyphers, Darrell D., Pvt
334 N.E. Robert,
Gresham, Ore.
Dahlgren, Douglas O., Pfc
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Dallessandro, Frank, Cpl
1651 McGarry, Los Angeles,
Calif.
Davis, Gordville E., Pfc
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Klickatkat, Wash.
Delgado, Frank, Pvt
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Desrosiers, Aime J., Pfc
49 Midland, Highland Park,
Mich.
Dick, Clifford E., Pfc, BS
Box 1091, Port Orchard,
Wash.
Dickinson, Arnold W., Lt
118 Lincoln St.,
Lewiston, Me.
DiFabio, Daniel V., Pfc, BS
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beth, N. J.
Di Guilio, Albert J., Pfc, BS
Address Unknown
Dillinger, Lawrence E., Pfc
Auburndale, Wis.
- Dillon, Luke E., Pvt, BS
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Dodson, Billie F., S/Sgt, BS
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Dorton, Albert C., Pfc
Gen. Del., Church Hill, Tenn.
Downing, Raymond F., Sgt
58 E. Middle Turnpike,
Manchester, Conn.
Drabic, Michael, Pvt
78 Back St., Mary D., Pa.
Drazgowski, Anthony A., Pvt
Marenisco, Mich.
Drazkowski, Frank A., Jr.,
Lt, SS★
306 S. Mine St., Bessemer,
Mich.
Dunham, Gerald L., Pfc, SS
9 Pearl St., Sanford, Me.
Duran, Efrain R., T/Sgt, BS
Gen. Del., Rio Grande, Tex.
Eckett, Norman C., Pfc
Caves Junction, Ore.
Edmondson, William P.,
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Eiker, Charles F., Pvt, BS
2423 E. 58th St., Los
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Ellis, Eldwin J., Pvt
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Enck, William, Pvt
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Erickson, Henry G., Pvt
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Evans, Ross L., Pvt
Rte. 3, Box 200, Bakersfield,
Calif.
Exworthy, Sam, Pvt
235 Day St., Ironwood, Mich.
Eyherabide, Stephen P., Lt
1329 Niles St., Bakersfield,
Calif.
Facey, Fred F., Pfc
1417 26th St., Sacramento,
Calif.
Fagan, Jack, Cpl, BS
Box 78, Citronella, Ala.
Fancher, Calvin N., Pfc
Bruce, Ohio
Faraday, Donald H., Pvt
Danielson, Conn.
Fassett, Clarence D., 1stLt, BS
61 E. Penn St., Phila., Pa.
Fellows, Everett W., Pvt
Rte. 2, Sheldon, Mo.
Fisher, Louie C., Pvt
94½ S. Main St., Charles
City, Iowa
Fleischman, Irvin G., Pvt
1117 9th Ave., Antigo, Wis.
Formaro, Frank J., Pfc
2412 E. 40th St. Ct.,
Des Moines, Iowa
Fort, Prather, 1stSgt
4716 Burkley St., Louis-
ville, Ky.
Franklin, Clayton Lee, Pfc
Box 201, Baggerna, N. M.
- Frankovich, Andrew C., Pfc
206 Woodbine St., Kingsford,
Mich.
Fridrich, Raymond E., Pfc
% Dr. Van Meier, Rte. 2,
Stillwater, Minn.
Furniss, Walter G., Pvt
520 S. Van Ness Ave.,
San Francisco, Calif.
Gadd, Charles E., Sgt
513 N. Main St., Greens-
burg, Pa.
Galarza, Manuel P., Pfc
3153 Sanchez Ave., Del Rosa,
Calif.
Gallegos, Lloyd J., Pvt
1311 26th St., Denver, Colo.
Gallo, Vincent E., Pvt
Address Unknown
Galvan, Encarnacion B., Pvt
284 S. 9th St., Colton, Calif.
Garner, Alonzo J., Pfc, SS
Redsprings, Ala.
Gartin, Bernard H., Pfc
Lindrith, N. M.
Garvis, Edward N., Pvt
746 East Mount, Los Angeles,
Calif.
Gaynor, Gerard J., Pfc
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Conn.
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4461 3d St., Detroit, Mich.
Gibbs, Billy H., Pfc
Rte. 2, Altoona, Ala.
Gilley, Frank R., Pvt
R.A.R. Rte. 1,
Cleveland, Tex.
Gilstrap, Harry L., Pvt
226 Butler St., Macon, Mo.
Gioglio, Angelo A., Pfc
763 Hart St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Goddard, Louis H., Pfc
3605 Mt. Vernon St.,
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Gonzales, Frank A., Pfc
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324 N. Dubuque St., Iowa
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Gray, Hershel W., S/Sgt, BS
1002 Pine Bluff,
Malvern, Ark.
Greenwell, Earl B., Pvt
2640 N. Heidelberg Ave.,
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Grunst, Theodore W., Pfc
21838 E. River Rd., Grosse
Isle, Mich.
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674 Bell St., Akron, Ohio
Halstead, James P., Pvt
Limestone, Mich.
Hamilton, George T., Pvt
Box 112, Plant City, Fla.
Hams, Russell O., Pfc, BS
Rte. 1, Karlstad, Minn.
Handley, Alvia E., Pvt
Rte. 2, Hartford, Ky.
Hanes, John H., Pvt
715 Popular St., Winston
Salem, N. C.
Hannon, Francis F., Pfc, BS
822 4th St., DePers, Wis.
Hanson, Harry C., Pfc
Rte. 1, Clarks Grove, Minn.

★Oak Leaf Cluster to award.

Harland, Hjalmer M., Pvt
 Lincoln Ave., Albert Lea,
 Minn.
 Harris, Clare E., Sgt, BS
 710 River St., Owosso, Mich.
 Hays, Ralph F., S/Sgt
 202 S. Cottage Grove,
 Urbana, Ill.
 Hays, Walter D., S/Sgt, BS
 Rte. 2, Camilla, Ga.
 Head, Harry A., Pfc, BS
 Shawneetown, Ill.
 Heath, Oliver, Pvt
 Box 261, Oak Harbor, Wash.
 Helmes, Louis J., Pfc, BS
 44 S.W. Clair St., Cincinnati,
 Ohio
 Hendrix, Floyd W., Pvt
 2135 N.W. 32d St.,
 Oklaholma City, Okla.
 Henke, Sherwood F., Pfc, BS
 102 Roller Ave., Beaver
 Dam, Wis.
 Herbert, Warren M.,
 T/Sgt, BS
 Central, Ala.
 Hess, John, Jr., Pvt
 2026 N. 21st St., Milwau-
 kee, Wis.
 Hilscher, Eugene H., Sgt, BS
 115 E. Rische St., San
 Antonio, Tex.
 Himel, Thorn B., Pfc
 Address Unknown
 Hohnacke, Daniel J., Pvt
 Rte. 1, Butler, S. Dak.
 Holmes, Carl C., Pvt
 930 S.W. 13th, Portland, Ore.
 Holthouse, Henry F., S/Sgt
 392 Irving St., San Jose,
 Calif.
 Hoover, Charles F., Pvt
 Rte. 1, Box 44, E. Akron,
 Ohio
 Houston, Henry R., Pfc
 Charleston, Miss.
 Howard, James H., Pvt
 311 1st St., Redfield, S. Dak.
 Howard, Victor, Pvt
 Silverton, Ore.
 Hubiak, John W., Pfc
 5540 Talman Ave.,
 Chicago, Ill.
 Hudson, Euclid, Lt
 5221 4th St., Port
 Arthur, Tex.
 Hunter, John D., Jr., Pfc, BS
 306 N. Main St.,
 Lancaster, S. C.
 Hyatt, Morris R., Pvt
 Rte. 3, Oneonta, Ala.
 Hyde, William R., Pvt, BS
 573 Rasalie St., Phila., Pa.
 Ingle, Hubert M., Sgt
 Rte. 2, Candle, N. C.
 Ison, George, Jr., Pvt, BS
 Whittaker, Ky.
 Jakubowicz, Benny V., Pfc, BS
 3060 N. Elbridge Ave.,
 Chicago, Ill.
 James, Forrest A., Pfc, BS
 812½, Wausau, Wis.
 Jankoski, Philip J., Pvt
 3030 E. Wotus Ave.,
 Chicago, Ill.
 Jarmolowicz, Vincent, Pfc
 RFD 7, Jardine Rd., Erie, Pa.
 Jensen, William H., Pvt
 RFD, Morgan, Utah
 Johnson, Arvid C., Pvt
 Cushing, Minn.
 Johnson, Dale C., Pfc
 Maywood, Nebr.
 Johnson, George E., S/Sgt
 Box 91, Danbury, Wis.
 Johnson, Lionel H., Lt
 609 Randall St., Gabardino,
 Wash.
 Johnson, Oscar G., Jr.,
 Sgt, MOH
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 Jones, Harold E., Pfc
 Rte. 1, Fort Recovery, Ohio
 Jorgensen, Peter G., Pvt
 7031 Ederhart, Chicago, Ill.
 Kakko, Gust N., Pfc
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 Kane, Warren D., Pfc
 Doniphan, Mo.
 Katz, Norman P., Pfc, SS
 Essex St., Chelsea, Mass.
 Kearton, John G., Jr., Lt, BS
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 City, N. J.
 Keeny, Floyd C., 1st Sgt
 Rte. 3, Russellville, Ark.
 Keller, Joe N., Pfc, BS
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 Kelly, Austin S., Pfc, BS
 Rte. 1, Frederick, Md.
 Ketcham, Paul, Pfc
 Walsenburg, Colo.
 Kimberling, Wesley D.
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 Kiser, Raymond E., Pvt
 Hillsdale, Kans.
 Kiseon, Herbert O., S/Sgt, BS
 Rte. 1, Cedarburg, Wis.
 Klemm, Frederick W., Pvt
 719 Glenview St., Phila., Pa.
 Kliss, William J., Pfc, BS
 Rte. 2, Rineland, Wis.
 Knieriemen, Howard, Pfc
 86 Alyea St., Newark, N. J.
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 1639 Marshall St.,
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 Kraatz, Robert O., Pfc
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 Krause, Wendell W., Pfc
 Garwin, Iowa
 Kresel, John J., Pvt
 318 12th Ave., E.,
 Ashland, Wis.
 Kucksdorf, Elman R.
 F. Quigley, Marengo, Mich.
 Kueber, Barney C., Pvt
 1124½ Pacific Ave., Bristol
 Hotel, Tacoma, Wash.
 Kuizin, Anthony J., Pfc
 623 N. 7th St., Spring-
 field, Ill.
 Kundert, Charles W., Sgt
 Rte. 1, Monroe, Ore.
 Kwapich, Chester L., Pfc
 26 Gibson St., Buffalo, N. Y.
 Laforge, Daniel J., Pfc
 Lodgegrass, Mont.
 Lane, Donald B., Pvt
 525 S. Winter St.,
 Salem, Ore.
 Langer, Frank J., Jr., S/Sgt
 210 S. Pearl St., Albert Lea,
 Minn.
 Larson, Charles G., Lt, BS
 Rte. 1B, Villisca, Iowa
 Larson, Lloyd J., Pvt
 116 E. Boyington, Iron River,
 Mich.
 Lawrence, George W., Pfc
 Address Unknown
 Leafgreen, Frank S., Pfc, BS
 612 W. Stone, Fairfield, Iowa
 Lederer, John E., Pfc, BS
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 Ledesma, Antonio M., Pfc
 831 Kern St., Fresno, Calif.
 LeMay, Florimond P., Pfc
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 Falls, R. I.
 Lempesis, Peter, Pfc
 2843 W. Madison St.,
 Chicago, Ill.
 Leventhal, Sam, Pvt
 3335 W. Schubert Ave.,
 Chicago, Ill.
 Lewis, Estile L., Sgt
 1147 Dayton St., Cincinnati,
 Ohio
 Lewis, Thomas H., Pfc, BS
 Rte. 1, Cordele, Ga.
 Liberacki, Frank A., Pfc
 69 Sobieski St.,
 Rochester, N. Y.
 Lind, Lyle C., T/Sgt, BS
 Rte. 1, Shawnee, Wis.
 Lock, Carl F., Pvt
 803 E. Wells St., Milwau-
 kee, Wis.
 Luchenbill, Leroy T., Pvt
 Box 32, Vernon, Mich.
 Lugo, Caletto, Pfc, BS
 1436 19th St., Oakland, Calif.
 McAdams, Alvie C., Sgt, BS
 Box 26, Canute, Okla.
 McCarthy, Daniel T., Pfc, SS
 7708 S. Morgan St.,
 Chicago, Ill.
 McCoy, Francis J., Pfc
 RFD 3, Delmar, Iowa
 McMakin, Cecil H., T/4
 Star Rte., Houston, Tex.
 Mace, James E., Pfc
 Hartville, Mo.
 Machado, James, Pvt
 Box 94, Gustine, Calif.
 Madeley, Horace V., S/Sgt, BS
 3620 St. Helene,
 Beaumont, Tex.
 Magginni, Alfred, Pvt
 Lakeside, Calif.
 Maki, John H., Pfc
 Box 486, Caspian, Mich.
 Mardesich, Joseph P., Pfc, BS
 Box 256, Cupertino, Calif.
 Martin, Harry B., Pfc, BS
 Market St. Ext.,
 Ligonier, Pa.
 Mathews, Arthur W., Pvt
 Star Rte., Stevenson, Ala.
 Mathews, Walter S., Pfc, BS
 Rte. 2, Malone, Fla.
 Medina, Jose H., Pvt
 Kingsville, Tex.
 Menshaca, Rudy, Pfc, SS
 59th 2d Motor Transportation
 School, Kelly Field, Tex.
 Mercurio, Angelo, Pfc
 323 S. Orange Ave.,
 Newark, N. J.
 Mero, Walter J., Pfc
 53 Filbert St., Milton, Pa.
 Metheny, Ralph J., Pfc, SS
 RFD 1, Confluence, Pa.
 Michaels, Arthur J., 2d Lt
 702 Palace St., Aurora, Ill.
 Mierzewski, Harry, Pfc, BS
 Carnegie, Pa.
 Millard, Duane F., Sgt,
 LM, BS
 405 Rock St., Janesville, Wis.
 Miller, Elmore, Pfc, BS
 Derby, Va.
 Miller, Frank W., Pvt
 Box 457, Aurora, Ill.

★Oak Leaf Cluster to award.

- Miller, George, Jr., Pvt
2902 Drake Rd., Columbus,
Ohio
- Miller, Luther H., Pvt
5531 S. Homan Ave.,
Chicago, Ill.
- Miller, Robert B., Pfc, BS
3909 Lowercroft St., Lansing,
Mich.
- Minkhouse, Joseph F., Pfc
209 E. Walnut St., Wads-
worth, Ohio
- Mitchell, C. B., Pfc
156 Frankford St., Ver-
sailles, Ky.
- Moje, George E., Pvt
59 Kings Parkway,
Baldwin, N. Y.
- Molini, Jack L., Pfc, BS
101 E. Wyandotte, Stockton,
Calif.
- Moore, Andrew J., 1st Sgt, BS
1101 N. Crockett,
Cameron, Tex.
- Morgan, Albert A., Cpl, BS
Rte. 1, Talmo, Ga.
- Mount, Roy W., Pfc, BS
Rte. 1, Bluntsville, Ala.
- Murphy, Charles J., Lt, SS, BS
808 W. 4th, Sioux City, Iowa
- Murphy, William R., Jr.,
Pfc, BS
Rte. 1, Rushtown, Ohio
- Musella, Louis J., Pvt
86 Grand St., Albany, N. Y.
- Nangle, James J., Pvt
6678 Yucca St., Albany, N. Y.
- Narikus, Leo C., Cpl
423 S. Utica St., Wauke-
gan, Ill.
- Neely, Covert H., Pfc, BS
Silverhill, W. Va.
- Neely, Rufus M., Pfc, BS
Address Unknown
- Neely, William G., Pvt
1003 S. Division, Grand
Rapids, Mich.
- Nielsen, Jens P., Pvt
Calva, Iowa
- Nipitalla, Giovanni, Pvt
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- Nitsch, Benjamin F., Jr., Pvt
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- Nobles, William W., Pvt
Rte. 2, Wetumpka, Ala.
- Noe, Harold B., Pvt
Eighth St. Hill, Corbin, Ky.
- Odendahl, Horace W., Pvt
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- Olmstead, Robert L., Pfc, BS
Address Unknown
- O'Deal, Aaron W., Pfc
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- Orcutt, Charles R., Pvt
S. Grant St., Wray, Colo.
- Paradise, Michael, Pvt
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- Patterson, Dethel G., Pfc
Blue Ridge, Ga.
- Pearson, Ralph S., Pvt
610 E. Franklin, Troy, Ohio
- Pedersen, Jordan N., Pfc
104 Olive St., Huntington,
L. I., N. Y.
- Pegg, John M., Pfc
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- Perales, Joaquin C., Pfc
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- Perkins, Arthur L., Pfc
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- Perry, Jewel F., S/Sgt
4622 57th St., Maywood,
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- Peters, Frederick, Jr., Pfc
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- Petersen, Roger W., Sgt
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Albert Lea, Minn.
- Peterson, George H., Pfc
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Philadelphia, Pa.
- Petrochilli, Elwood M., Sr., Pvt
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Richmond, Va.
- Petry, Earl J., Pfc
Eldorado, Ohio
- Petty, Henry M., Jr., Pfc
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News, Va.
- Philips, Jack E., Pvt
857 N. Hayworth, Los
Angeles, Calif.
- Pierce, Fred V., Pfc
Rte. 2, Tahoka, Tex.
- Pilsner, Alfred B., Pvt, BS
Ward 25, Geaumont Gen.
Hosp., El Paso, Tex.
- Pinkston, Ernest T., Pfc
Wiseman, Ark.
- Plachinski, Alfred G., Lt
517 E. 148th St.,
Bronx, N. Y.
- Plata, Walter J., Pfc
Sackville, Wallingford, Pa.
- Porter, James K., Pvt
902 26th Ave., N.E., Minne-
apolis, Minn.
- Posey, Raymond H. H., Pfc
1732 Frenchman St.,
New Orleans, La.
- Poston, James T., Pvt
Rte. 1, Lebanon, Tenn.
- Powers, Leo, Pvt
Sweet Grass, Mont.
- Prahl, George E., Lt
Address Unknown
- Pruitt, Wayne H., Pfc
Rte. 2, Jonesboro, Tex.
- Pusateri, Anthony J., Sgt
42 N. Main St., Burgotts-
town, Pa.
- Quave, Otis J., Pvt
Lee Rd., Covington, La.
- Quinn, Joseph, Pvt
6th Ave., Blackwood
Terr., N. J.
- Raines, Walter H., Pfc
293 Marion St.,
Brooklyn, N. Y.
- Ratcliff, Howard C., Pfc
Bellhave, N. C.
- Rau, Phillip H., Pfc
3183 N. 15th St., Milwau-
kee, Wis.
- Rauchbach, John J., Pvt
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- Rembish, Fred, Pfc, BS
Box 385, Pinefork, Ohio
- Ressel, Lawrence, Pfc
2353A N. 27th St.,
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- Rex, Arthur V., Pfc
Randolph, Utah
- Rhodes, Arthur D., Sgt
RFD 1-A, Spencer, Iowa
- Rice, Othur W., Pvt
Rte. 2, Hanceville, Ala.
- Rickoff, George H., T/4
1628 N. Penn. St., Mason
City, Iowa
- Ripley, Melvin M., S/Sgt
Rte. 1, Deport, Tex.
- Roach, Edward A., Sgt
2830 N. Palmer St.,
Milwaukee, Wis.
- Romano, Michael J., T/5
67 Hutton St., Jersey
City, N. J.
- Ruchman, Earnest, Pvt
409 Ave. T., Brooklyn, N. Y.
- Rule, Leland W., Lt
87 Chestnut St. & Highland
Drive, Milltown, N. J.
- Rumpza, Stanley A., Cpl, BS
Rte. 2, Roslyn, S. Dak.
- Russo, Andrew, Pfc
327 Liberty St., Sharon, Pa.
- Ruwoldt, Wilson E., Pvt
St. Marys, Ohio
- Ryan, George J., Pvt
Address Unknown
- Sabol, George M., Pvt
1208 E. 28th, Tacoma, Wash.
- Sanders, Virgil C., T/Sgt
920 19th Ave., Rock
Island, Ill.
- Santana, Alberto, Pvt
816 S. Virginia, Apt. 22,
El Paso, Tex.
- Schneider, Hyman, Pfc
3450 Wilson Ave., Cincinnati,
Ohio
- Schnopp, Richard H., Cpl
Box 162, Dalton, Mass.
- Schomoker, Herbert R., S/Sgt
Terrebone, Ore.
- Schram, Harvey D., Pvt
303 S. Manlo St., Sioux
Falls, S. Dak.
- Schutter, Herman, S/Sgt, BS
RFD, Titonka, Iowa
- Scott, Charles W., Pfc
Minden, W. Va.
- Sczurowski, Leo F., Pfc
Bloomfield St., Attleboro,
Mass.
- Seal, Eldon F., Pfc
206 Oak St., Three Oaks,
Mich.
- Seals, Billy J., Pvt
206 Oak St., Three Oaks,
Mich.
- Sensenig, Ray B., S/Sgt, BS
413 W. Main St., New
Holland, Pa.
- Seratinio, Anthony M., Pfc
708 S. Hutchinson St.,
Philadelphia, Pa.
- Shapiro, Harold J., Pvt, BS
3001 S. 15th St., Phila., Pa.
- Shaver, Jake C., Pvt
Gen. Del., Manila, Ark.
- Shaw, Daniel L., Lt
225 N. 3d St., Clairton, Pa.
- Shayatovich, Edward F.,
Pfc, BS
3015 S. Lawndale Ave.,
Chicago, Ill.
- Shelton, Rankin A., Pvt
Rte. 2, Box 110, McAlester,
Ohio
- Siemienski, Edward S., Pfc, BS
197 Oak St., Manchester,
Conn.

★Oak Leaf Cluster to award.

Sigler, Doyle B., Pfc
2302 Poplar St., Cleveland,
Tenn.

Sill, John W., Pfc
Edgerton, Kans.

Simula, Elwood B., 2dLt
45 2d St., Ahmeck, Mich.

Sindzinski, Walter S., Pvt
3149 S. Taylor Ave.,
Milwaukee, Wis.

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 Goodale, Ura A., Pfc
 140 Kitchen St., Dexter, Mo.
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 RFD 2, Surrency, Ga.
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 Hagquist, Lawrence, Pfc
 1058 Anderson Ave.,
 Coos Bay, Ore.
 Halpern, Lewis, Pfc
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 Rte. 3, Shelby, N. C.
 Hams, Louis, Pvt
 Box 7, Chelan Falls, Wash.
 Hannon, Lester J., Pvt
 101-57 111 St.,
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 Yankton, S. D.
 Hanson, Randolph C., Pfc
 Blendenville, Wisc.
 Harrold, Authur E., Pvt
 Rte. 1, Hunker, Pa.
 Hartman, Theodore F., Pfc
 Gen. Del., Forgan, Okla.
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 Hasbrouck, William M., Pvt
 76 Chestnut St.,
 Cooperstown, N. Y.
 Hatfield, Raymond C., Pvt
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 Hedge, Edwin R., Pfc
 556 Highland Ave.,
 Indianapolis, Ind.
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 Hendrix, James L., Pvt
 Morro Bay, Calif.
 Hensley, Robert J., Pvt
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 Hepner, Edgar G., Jr., Pfc
 Rte. 4, Coffeyville, Kans.
 Herbert, Dunbar W., Pvt
 4481 1/2 W. 57th St.,
 Los Angeles, Calif.
 Herrold, Floyd E., Pvt
 804 W. Willis, Perry, Iowa
 Hershkowitz, Sidney, Pfc
 695 George Ave.,
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 Hickey, Daniel B., Sgt
 118 Sewall St., Augusta,
 Maine
 Hill, Archie E.
 66 Amherst, North Ashua,
 N. H.
 Hitchcock, Arnold G., Pfc
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 Hively, Robert C., Pfc, BS
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 Hogan, John J., Pvt
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 Hollar, Paul E.
 Rte. 6, Statesville, N. C.
 Holmquist, George V., Pvt
 RFD 1, Tustin, Mich.
 Holsinger, Robert P., Jr., Pfc
 Rte. 1, Penn Laird, Va.
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 Hubbard, Warren, Pfc
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 Huffman, William M., Pvt
 Hillside, Ariz.
 Hulse, Grant S., Pfc
 Grace, Idaho
 Hunley, Julius C., S/Sgt
 Sunset Trail, Fountain City,
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 Gen. Del., Glade, Kans.
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 Jenkins, Floyd, Cpl
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 Patterson, N. J.
 Jenkins, Joseph H., Pvt
 Clay St., Canton, N. C.
 Jesion, Edward V., Pvt
 3437 S. 12th St.,
 Milwaukee, Wisc.
 Johnassen, Orville W., Pfc
 1516 Mulberry St.,
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 Johnson, Carl A., Pfc
 RFD 5, Gilmer, Texas
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 Johnson, Frank P., Pvt
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 Port Angeles, Wash.
 Johnson, Robert E., Pfc
 4029 Grove Ave.,
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 Berwick, N. D.
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 Rockford, Ill.
 Koontz, John M., Pvt
 1009 1/2 6th St.,
 Charlotte, N. C.
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 3535 Sheffield Ave.,
 Chicago, Ill.
 Kovas, March P., 1stLt, SS, BS
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 Ind.
 Kraft, Henry J., Pvt
 Dingman's Ferry, Pa.
 Kyger, Curtis, Pfc
 310 W. 13th St.,
 Fulton, Mo.
 Landi, Jack, Pfc
 113 Wasegen St., Otesgo,
 Mich.
 Lane, William W., S/Sgt
 121 Forest Hill,
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 Langford, Thomas E., Pfc
 Rte. 5, Carrollton, Ga.
 Laredo, Fernando L., Pfc
 312 W. High St.,
 Tucumcari, N. M.
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 Grand Island, Neb., Rte. 4
 Larson, Henry I., Pfc
 2386 N. W. Roosevelt,
 Portland, Ore.
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 Randolph, Mass.
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 Colfar, Wash.
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 440 W. Pacific,
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 Loudin, Harold L., T/5
 RFD 2, Buckhannon, W. Va.
 Lowe, Harley L., Jr., Pfc
 116 Water St., Spencer,
 W. Va.
 Lower, Daniel G., Pfc, BS
 1024 N. Eddy St.,
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 Lubbock, John L., S/Sgt
 146 Prado St.,
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 Lynow, John P., Pvt
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★Oak Leaf Cluster to award.

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- McConnell, John B., Pfc
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Chicago, Ill.
- McCormick, Daniel W., Pfc, BS
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- McCormick, John W., Pvt
Oldfort, N. C.
- McGinness, William J., Pvt
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D. C.
- McGrath, George J., T/3
Clay Rd., Henrieville, N. Y.
- McGraw, J. M., Pfc
Rte. 4, Shelby, N. C.
- McKie, Arthur B., Jr., Lt
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- McRaven, Larry W., Pfc
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- Macensa, Alexander, Sgt
258 2nd St., Coaldale, Pa.
- Machalinski, Raymond F., Pvt
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- MacNaughton, John D., Jr.,
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Gen. Del., Crosleyton, Texas
- Maples, George E., Sgt
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- Marshall, Roy E., T/4
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- Martinez, Michael S., Pfc
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- Masters, Charles E., Pfc
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- Matter, Rudoph, Pvt
Crannell, Calif.
- Mattox, Robert, Pfc
Rte. 6, Lawrenceburg, Tenn.
- Mendoza, Juan, Pfc
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- Messing, Hugo L., Sgt
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- Miller, Donald C., Pfc
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- Miller, Frank A., Pvt
Las Vegas, Nevada
- Mitchell, James R., Pfc
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- Mollerup, Harvey J., Pfc
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Winfield, Mo.
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- Murphy, Rolla T., Pfc
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- Murphy, William C., Pvt
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- Musk, George R., Pfc
Mauldin, Mo.
- Myer, Adran M., Pfc
Neeley Landing, Mo.
- Hash, Raymond L., Pfc
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- Neal, Curtis M., T/Sgt
Crandall, Miss.
- Neatby, James R., T/4
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KinMundy, Ill.
- Nendze, Harold P., Pfc
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- Nichols, Lloyd D., Pvt
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- Noakes, Ray W., Sgt
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- Noel, Regis J., Pvt
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- Novicki, Frank P., Sgt
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- Novotny, Gilvert A., Pfc
Tyndal, S. D.
- Oak, Robert E., Pfc
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- Ocnas, Ferdinand J., Pfc
Lander, Wyo.
- Olsen, Warren C., T/4
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- Parker, Robert A., Pvt
Cadyville, N. Y.
- Patrarella, Sam M., S/Sgt, BS
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- Pellegrino, Joseph P., Sgt
451 Korridk, Wood River,
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- Pellet, Marvin R., Sgt
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- Perona, James L., Pfc
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Danesville, Ill.
- Perri, William J., Pfc
2652 Leyington Ave.,
Chicago, Ill.
- Peters, Clarence W., Pfc
3753 Dickens Ave.,
Chicago, Ill.
- Petinak, Dam M., S/Sgt
3020 Grove St., Oakland,
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- Pfau, James L., 1st/Sgt, BS★
1633 Humphrey St.,
Kalamazoo, Mich.
- Pfeffer, John W., Lt
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- Pienta, Walter A., Pfc
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- Pilling, Ray F., Pvt
4 N. 21st St.,
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- Pinelli, Joseph, Pfc, BS
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- Pizzamiglio, Emil M., Pfc
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2746 N. 1st, Milwaukee,
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- Postell, Earl T., Pfc, SM
Rte. 1, Mineral Bluff, Ga.
- Pugh, Albert L., Pfc
Rte. 8, Tyler, Texas
- Puschig, Henry F., Pfc
5030 W. 25th Pl.,
Cicero, Ill.
- Radke, Harry M., 2dLt
Glenwood, Minn.
- Rahmel, Gerald G., Sgt
Rte. 5, Defiance, Ohio

★Oak Leaf Cluster to award.

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Helenwood, Tenn.

Rankin, Kenneth D., Pvt
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Ranson, Seth J., Jr., 1stLt
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5th Regt RTC,
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Rte. 1, Westfield, N. C.

Riley, Scott J., Pvt
Corwin Springs, Mont.

Ritter, Crum M., Pvt, **SS**
Shepherds Town, W. Va.

Roberts, Arbie D., Jr., Pfc
Rte. 1, Detroit, Ala.

Roberts, Edward C., Pfc
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Robertson, James R., Pfc
Rte. 1, Halls, Tenn.

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Gen. Del., Vance, Texas

Rumfelt, Andrew F., Pfc
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Saenz, Humberto, Pfc
Los Saenz, Texas

Salle, Peter, Pfc
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Samuels, Robert, Jr., Pvt
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Sanchez, Alex R., Pfc
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Sanders, Henry E., Pvt
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Sanders, Raymond F., Pvt
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Fordwick, Va.

Stalcup, Wm. C., Pfc
Rte. 2, Murphy, N. C.

Staley, Bertram, Pfc
Rte. 1, Sandusky, Ohio

Stallings, Jack, Pfc
Rte. 2, McMillan,
Carryton, Tenn.

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Stotts, Henry, Pfc
Duncan, Ariz.

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Hardin, Ill.

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Swansen, Louis, Pvt
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Threet, Ernest R., S/Sgt, **BS**
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Tilden, Franklin E., T/4
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1388 W. 7th St.,
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Towns, Iryle C., Pvt
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Trapasso, Frank A., Pfc
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Garden Home Add'm,
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Hermanville, Md.
Vanvalkenburg, Gerrit, Pfc
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Vaught, Lloyd, Pvt
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Vieres, Woodrow W., S/Sgt
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Volpe, Rocco, Pvt
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Vroman, Raymond W., Pvt
RFD, East Greenbush, N. Y.
Walker, Andrew B., Pvt
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 Giambrune, Joseph D., Pfc
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 High Point, N. C.
 Giron, Joseph E., Cpl
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 Nebo, Ill.
 Goins, Joe B., Pvt
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 Goodson, Douglas L., T/5
 Thompson, Nebr.
 Gordon, George T., Pvt
 Staffordsville, Va.
 Gordon, Walter, Pvt
 Tyler, Richland, N. D.
 Graham, Roy A., Pvt
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- Holt, Christian J., Pvt
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- Horton, Donald N., Pfc
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Rte. 2, Pikeville, N. C.
- Howell, William H., Pvt
Rte. 3, Waycross, Ga.
- Hughes, William, Pvt
Rte. 2, Hot Springs, Ark.
- Hutson, Robert J., S/Sgt, DSC
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Star Rte., Dobson, N. C.
- Johnson, Doddridge S., Pvt
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- Johnson, Donald L., Pfc
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- Johnson, Ernest L., T/Sgt, BS
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- Johnson, Paul E., Pfc
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- Johnson, Paul E., S/Sgt
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- Johnson, Samuel B., Pvt
169 Park St.,
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- Johnston, William R., Pfc
372 Buffalo St., Gowanda,
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- Jones, Charles, S/Sgt, BS
Climax, N. C.
- Jones, J. D., Pfc
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- Kearney, James J., Pvt
Rte. 4, Goldsboro, N. C.
- Kemp, Alfred R., Pvt
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- Kemp, Paul J., Pvt
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Logan, Iowa
- Knight, Hugh C., Pfc
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- Lucas, Melvin, Pfc
209 W. D St., Erwin, N. C.
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- McCarty, Aurbin T., S/Sgt
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- McMahan, Billie B., T/Sgt
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 Main St., Wupton, Mass.
 Navarro, Frank T., Pfc
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 Nazlerod, Vernon L., Pvt
 906 Gay St.,
 Cumberland, Md.
 Neace, Burgess, Pfc
 Jackson, Ky.
 Neal, James H., Pvt
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 Negrete, Rutilio B., Pfc, BS
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 Nelson, George E., Lt, BS
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 Cupiague, N. Y.
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 Saxon, Jeffrey D., Pvt
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 Schmidt, Albert A., Jr., Pfc
 1900 Highlands,
 Montgomery, Ala.
 Schott, Lawrence J., 1stLt
 Schallen, Iowa
 Schreckengost, Washington M.,
 Pfc
 Rte. 3, Dayton, Pa.
 Schroer, Joseph C., S/Sgt, BS*
 1321 Pendleton St.,
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 Gen. Del., Little Hocking,
 Ohio
 Seay, James R., Pfc
 Bryson City, N. C.
 Secor, Robert T., Pvt
 5023 Washington St.,
 St. Louis, Mo.
 Sensabaugh, Coolidge D., Pvt
 Rte. 2, London, Ky.
 Sharp, William C.,
 Donald, Wisc.
 Shelton, Von, Pvt
 Montgomery, La.
 Shinn, Albert W., Pvt
 1266 S. E. 48th Ave.,
 Portland 15, Ore.
 Sikorski, Edward, Cpl
 927 Monroe St.,
 Portland, Ore.
 Simpson, Floyd W., Pfc
 8 3rd St., La France, S. C.
 Simselsvitz, Morris, Pvt
 1727 W. 4th St.,
 Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Skinner, Roy S., Pfc
 Rte. 1, Brasher, Mo.
 Slemp, Henry T., Pfc
 4117 S. Albany Ave.,
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 Smith, Harlan R., Pfc
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- Spacone, Donald, Pfc
Rte. 1, Box 1875,
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- Sperry, Donald V., T/5
Addison, Ill.
- Stadler, Harry C., Sgt
200 Ave. C, Latrobe, Pa.
- Staffieri, Albert, Pfc
618 E. Madison St.,
Lancaster, Pa.
- Stafford, John J., Pfc
43 Danube St.,
Dorchester, Mass.
- Stancil, George G., S/Sgt
Rte. 2, Kenly, N. C.
- Stech, Thomas J., Pfc
5100 Lowell Ave.,
Chicago, Ill.
- Stevens, Hollis V., Sgt
420 E. 3rd St.,
Montgomery 7, Ala.
- Stevens, Merton E., Pfc
New Sherborn Rd.,
Kthol, Mass.
- Stevens, Russell A., Pfc
Rte. 1, Donbury, N. C.
- Stewart, Joe I., Pvt
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Detroit, Mich.
- Stone, James C., Pvt
Box 257-A, St. Albans,
W. Va.
- Stoneburner, Jacob R., Pvt
Onsted, Mich.
- Story, Roy, Pfc
Rte. 1, Johnson City, Tenn.
- Strayhorn, Leroy B., Sgt
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- Streeter, Nathan E., Pfc
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Mo.
- Strunk, Harry M., Cpl, BS
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Lyndora, Pa.
- Sullivan, John V., 1stLt
381 Ives St.,
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- Sullivan, Paul E., Pvt
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- Summers, Joseph, Pvt
Rte. 3, New Auburn, Wisc.
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- Tipaward, Elmer N., Pfc
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- Trout, Edward W., Pvt
813 A St., Coeur d'Alene,
Idaho
- Tucker, Lee A., Pfc
Gen. Del., Blythe, Calif.
- Tune, Osby C., Pfc
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- Turner, Charlie C., Pfc
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- Vanca, William, Pfc
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Mich.
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- Wallace, Charles S., Pvt
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N. Plainfield, N. J.
- Waller, Clyde C., Pfc
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- Walters, Ralph E., Pfc
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- Ward, Robert, Pfc
Rte. 1, Eagle Station, Ky.
- Warner, Lavern A., Pvt
8½ 2nd St., SE, Mason
City, Iowa
- Warren, Gerald E., Pvt
Rte. 6, Findlay, Ohio
- Warren, James F., Pfc, BS
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- Waters, Robert P., Pvt
185½ W. Algoma St.,
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- Way, Alfred E., Pfc
Cozad, Nebr.
- Weather, Arthur B., Pfc
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- Weaver, Howard E., Lt, DSC
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- Weaver, James W., Pvt
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- Weaver, Russell K., Pvt
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- Weddle, Lewis B., Pvt
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- Weidel, Robert E., Pvt
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- Welliver, Dale, Cpl
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- Wells, Glenn H., S/Sgt
Rte. 1, Twin Falls, Idaho
- Wells, Joe B., Pfc
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- Welsh, Michael A., Pfc
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- West, Joseph L., Pvt
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- Westfall, True D., Pfc
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Mexico
Yetter, Durward Q., Lt
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Yoakum, Lloyd D., Pvt
Mingo, Iowa

Zdzieblowski, Theddeus L., Pfc
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Cassidy, James F., S/Sgt
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Castor, John, Pfc
210 W. "C" St., Hutchinson,
Kans.
Chavez, Manuel B., Pfc
215 Front St., Salinas, Cal.
Cioffi Frank L., Pfc
Linden St., Wyandanur, N. Y.
Clabough, Charles, S/Sgt., BS
Esterville, Iowa
Clark, Israel J., Pfc., BS
Ft. Duchesne, Utah
Clifton, Cecil W., Pvt
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Livingston, Tenn.
Dehart, Pat R., S/Sgt
Round Pond, Ark.

★Oak Leaf Cluster to award.

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- De Jardins, Howard L., S/Sgt., BS
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- Di Pasquale Arthur E. Pvt
16 Kent St., Ballston Spa, N. Y.
- Dixon, Howard A., T/4
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- Dixon, John H., 1st Sgt
Silverton Star Rte., Floyd, Texas
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- Dunn, Arthur W. Pfc
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- Duran, Juyencito, Pvt
Dixon, N. M.
- Dwyer, Melvin B., Pfc
Woodberry Forest, Va.
- Eckroat, Virgil O., 1st Sgt., SS, BS
419 East Albert St., Pampa, Texas
- Eide, Irving, Pvt
Northwood, Iowa
- Elmo Joseph A., S/Sgt. 3576
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- Engle, William R., Pfc
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- Erl, Joe F., Cpl
Medford, Wis.
- Esola, Johnnie., Pfc
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- Ezzi, Santo A., Pvt
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- Feldman, Elmer, Pvt
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- Feldman, Hyman, Pvt
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- Foster, Ezelle, Pvt
Tryon, N. C.
- Foy, Henry H., Pvt
Gen Del., Monroe La.
- Francel, Frank J., Pvt
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- Frazier, Wise S., Pvt
Rte. No. 1, Webster Ky.
- Fritschner, George K., Lt
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- Fuqua, Arthur F., Pvt
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- Gabriel, Thomas J., Pfc
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- Gaddy, Stanley S., Pfc
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- Gately, Albert W., Pvt
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- Gentleman, James J., Pvt
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- George, Tice, Jr., Pvt
Fricks, Penna.
- Gilbertson, Theodore E., 1stSgt
Albert Lea, Minn.
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- Gilliam, Roy, Pfc
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- Goldsberry, Otto E., Pfc
Nellis, W. Va.
- Gomane, William, Pvt
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- Granof, Hyman B. Pfc
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- Greaves, Ralph N., Pvt
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- Greenland, Evert G., Pvt
1509 Neva Rd., Antigo, Wis.
- Gribbon, James E., Pvt
325 Via Dela Paz., Palisades, Calif.
- Graesch, Henry F., Pfc
Kimberly, Idaho
- Grohol, George G., Pvt
94 N. Empire St., Wilkes Barre, Pa.
- Gross, Phillippe E., Pfc
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- Gunning, Ralph R., Sgt
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- Hahn, Louis N., Pvt
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- Hahto, William M., Pvt
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- Hall, James W., Sgt
Rte. No. 1, Portage, Wis.
- Hamby, Harold, Pfc
Postelle, Tenn.
- Hampton, William H., Pvt
Rte. No. 3, Salem, Ind.
- Hanglin Joseph E., Pvt
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- Hanson, Maurice E., Lt.
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- Harper, Wallace, Pvt
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- Hateley, James H., T/4
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- Hayes, William T., Pfc
139 Gertrude Ct., Pasadena, Calif.
- Heapy, Donald W., Pvt
463 Seldy Ave., St. Paul, Minn.
- Hendrickson, Clyde M., Pfc., BS
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- Henning, Roy R., Pvt.
R.F.D. No. 2, Apollo, Penna.
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- Herrera, Jesus, Pvt
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- Hodes, Hyman E., Pfc
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- Ingeman, Harvey M., Cpl
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- Isenberg, Roy C., T/4
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- Johnson, Ragnar E., Pfc
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Johnson, Virgil, Pvt
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Star Rte., Crystall Falls,
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Lawson, Mo.
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c-o C. H. Day, Sardis, Canada
- Rubin, Kenneth, Sgt
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- Ruhlman, Edwin T., Pfc
N. Branch, Mich.
- Runyan, James T., Pfc
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- Sadler, John Jr., Pvt
Lowmansville, Ky.
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- Schuster, Leo G. Pfc
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- Smith, Denver D., Pvt
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- Armbrust, Fred, Pvt
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Rte. 6, Athens, Ala.
- Davis, Harold D., Pfc
High St., Columbus, Ohio
- Davis, Samuel F., Pfc
Rte. 1, Bernie, Mo.
- Deckert, Christ, Pfc
309 S. 25th Ave., Bellwood,
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- Delplanche, Elmer G., Pfc
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- Dielen, Leonard J., T/4
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- Doering, Edwin O., T/Sgt
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- Domanski, Eugene, Pfc
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- Dunn, Warren K., Pfc
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- Engel, Pierre H., Pfc
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4, Calif.
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- Frederick, Lawrence, Lt
Address unknown

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 Appleton, Wisc.
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 154 Roma Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.
 Gerhardt, Ben, Sgt, SM
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 Goldfien, Bernard V., Pvt
 190 Pennsylvania St.,
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 Gordon, Barney, Pvt
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 Long, Warren F., Pfc
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 Lovisa, Raymond, Pfc
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 Lukesh, Everett W., Pfc
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 Lynch, Minor L., Pvt
 Cornelia, Ga.
 McCallister, Hilbert, Pvt
 RFD 2, Summerville, Mo.
 McDaniel, Ira O., Pfc
 Rte. 2, Vaughn, Miss.
 McDaniel, James L., Pfc
 Lake City, S. C.
 McGinnis, Leroy, Pfc
 Rte. 2, Kings Mountain, N. C.
 McMillan, Clarence R., Pfc
 Leachville, Ark.
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 Newman, Daniel A., 1stLt
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 Francisco, Calif.
 Notestine, Isaac K., 1stLt, BS
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 Mich.
 Owen, James L., Pvt
 317 E. 2d St., Bonham, Tex.
 Owen, John B., Pvt
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 Simmerman, Gilbert W., Pfc
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 Ore.
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 Stephen, Everett J., Pfc
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 Portland, Ore.
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 Rte. 2, Cherryvale, Kan.
 Sullivan, Robert E., Pfc
 151 W. Main St., Berne, Ind.
 Switzer, Robert R., Pfc
 Rte. 2, New Castle, Va.
 Syrjamaki, Elmer M., Sgt
 6 Jordan Loc., Chisholm,
 Minn.
 Tanton, Robert I., 1stSgt
 Star Rte. 1, Sulphur Springs,
 Tex.
 Taravella, Jake D., Pfc
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 Howe, Idaho
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 Ward, William A., Pfc
 P 91, Birfield Apts.,
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 Warner, Boyd, Pvt
 Rte. 2, Perrysville, Ohio
 Weatherby, William R., Pvt
 Rte. 1, Tallapoosa, Ga.
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★Oak Leaf Cluster to award.

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Gen. Del., Woodlake, Calif.
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- Gutunich, George, Pvt
130 1st St., Watsonville, Cal.
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Calif.
- Rodriguez, Ambrosio, Pfc
105 Hillside Ave., Pueblo,
Colo.
- Rodriguez, Virgilio A., Pvt
Box 761 Shafter, Calif.
- Rose, Leonard I., Pvt
1467 42d St. Brooklyn,
N. Y.
- Rothrock, Edwin E., Pfc
Rd 1, Alburtis, Pa.
- Ruggles, Paul B., S/Sgt, BS
1745 Delaware St.,
Beaumont, Tex.
- Rukavina, Anton E., Pvt
Bridger, Mont.
- Ryan, Eugene R., Pfc, BS
38 E. Warren St., Elmira,
N. Y.
- Ryan, William A., Pvt
602 E. Raynor Ave.,
Syracuse, N. Y.
- Sabol, John W., Pfc
Box 154, Elbert, W. Va.
- Sakalis, George J., Pfc, OS
Address Unknown, Los
Angeles, Calif.
- Salas, Luis L., S/Sgt
101 S. 11th St., Richmond,
Calif.
- Salazar, Antonio C., Pfc
Albuquerque, N. M.
- Sampson, Leroy, Pfc
112 S. Philipps Ave., Sioux
Falls, S. Dak.
- Sanson, Thomas C., Pvt
Rte. 1, Latohatohie, Ala.
- Schiffer, Ernest P., Pfc
11404 Gable, Detroit, Mich.
- Schinderle, Mike M., Pfc
415 Norway St., Iron
Mountain, Mich.
- Schirlinger, Edmond J., Pfc
New Ulm, Minn.
- Schhrentzel, Abe M., Pvt
2508 N. 48th St., Milwaukee,
Wis.
- Schumacher, Harry E., Pfc, BS
1636 E. 85th Place, Chicago,
Ill.
- Schuster, Erwin A., Cpl
521 Lowry Ave., N.,
Minneapolis, Minn.
- Schwengel, Richard J., Pfc
Atlanta, N. Y.
- Scott, Thomas M., Pfc
Robertssale, Ala.
- Scouil, Ernest L., Pvt
340 So. 7th East, Provo,
Utah
- Sendlak, Henry J., Sgt
1426 W. Chestnut St.,
Chicago, Ill.
- Senn, Fred W., Pfc, BS
Tremonton, Utah
- Shamshoian, Barkey, Pvt
205 So. Fulton St., Fresno,
Calif.
- Sherbacov, Alec, Pfc
613 8th Ave., W., Ashland,
Wis.
- Sherman, Edwin P., T/5
1919 N. Killett Ave.,
Springfield, Mo.
- Short, Howard, Pfc
Springfield, Mo.
- Simmons, Owen A., T/5
Nashua, Iowa
- Simon, Leonard E., Pvt
Pewamo, Mich.
- Sims, Richard, Pfc
RFD 1, Wilmore, Ky.
- Smith, Bernard R., 2dLt
Mars Hill, N. C.
- Smith, James E., Pfc
RFD 2, New Berlin, Ill.
- Smith, Walter J., Pvt
608 E. Jefferson St.,
Syracuse, N. Y.
- Smith, Wayne D., Capt
Station Rd., North East, Pa.
- Soljack, Emil, Pvt
3807 West St., Oakland, Cal.
- Spitaleri, Samuel, Pvt
2681 E. 47th St., Cleveland,
Ohio
- Spraggins, S. J., S/Sgt
Rte. 1, East, Tallassee, Ala.
- Stafanowicz, Clifford A., Pvt
Rte. 1, Farwell, Neb.
- Stagg, Albert J., Pvt
85 No. 6th St., Paterson,
N. J.
- Stanbrough, Jack A., Pvt
2189 E. Taylor St., Stockton,
Calif.

★Oak Leaf Cluster to award.

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218 Acadia St., San Francisco, Calif.

Steffen, Norman J., Pvt
805 Putnam St., Newport, Ky.

Steidl, Edward J., Pfc
Box 532, Willernie, Minn.

Stella, Valentine, Pvt
500 2d Ave., Hurley, Wis.

Stelly, Joseph J., Pfc
Camarillo, Calif.

Stenersen, Norman A., Pfc
Rte. 1 Britt, Iowa

Stevens, Winfred G., 1/Sgt
809 Pease St., Vernon, Tex.

Stewart, Raymond H., Capt
228 Market St., Johnstown, Pa.

Straub, Frank L., Pfc
477 Wilson Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Summers, Joseph M., Pvt
5616 Charles St., Detroit, Mich.

Stumpf, Charles F., Pfc
Sandusky, Ohio

Susswein, Henry S., Pvt
Trenton, N. J.

Swenson, Elmer J., Pfc
Rte. 1, Grantsburg, Wis.

Swift, Jonas J., Pfc
St. Francis, S. Dak.

Talanian, Peter S., Pfc
19 Blanche St., Dorchester, Mass.

Tatum, Cloyce W., Pvt
1494 Patton St., Memphis, Tenn.

Taylor, Jesse L., S/Sgt, SS, BS
Box 155, Roganville, Tex.

Taylor, Roy A., Pvt
1732 E. 7th St., Pakersboro, W. Va.

Terlitsky, Frank A., Pvt
Portage, Pa.

Teixeira, Gilbert, Pfc
Address Unknown, Oakland, Calif.

Theisen, Herbert F., Pfc
Rte. 2, Cadott, Wis.

Thomas, Gordon W., Pvt
Vulcan, Mich.

Thomas, J. W., Pfc, BS
Rte. 2, Hamilton, Tex.

Thompson, Sanford P., S/Sgt, BS
Ballinger, W. Va.

Thompson, Theodore R., Pvt, SS
3842 Brooklyn, Kansas City, Mo.

Thornberry, William J., Pvt
1438 S. Union St., Lima, Ohio

Thornton, Almeron E., Pfc
Rte. 1, Battle Creek, Mich.

Tidmore, Harvey K., Pfc
Rte. 1, Sipe Springs, Tex.

Tietgen, Lawrence E., Pvt
1215 South Penn., Mason City, Iowa

Tinker, Fred, Pfc
Conneaut, Ohio

Tinti, Nazereno H., Pvt
Loretto, Mich.

Todd, Clifton W., Pfc
615 S. 32d St., Richmond, Calif.

Tomko, John P., Pfc
1338 W. Thomas St., Chicago, Ill.

Tozi, Pete T., Pvt
Jackson, Calif.

Tracy, Kenneth B., Pfc
Gen Del., Mauston, Wis.

Traversi, Alfred J., Pfc, BS
14 Green St., Newton, Mass.

Travis, Edward R., S/Sgt
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Trevino, Pablino C., Pfc
Rte. 3, Box 389, Corpus Christie, Tex.

Tudor, William A., Pfc
Box 786, Dos Palos, Calif.

Tull, John W., Pvt
220 N. W., 8th Ave., Miami, Fla.

Turnbow, Lee O., Pvt
Gen. Del., Loraine, Tex.

Turner, Floyd C., S/Sgt
Gen. Del., Ennis, Tex.

Turner, Herbert O., Pfc, BS*
207 Oliver St., North Tonawanda, N. Y.

Ullery Francis M., Pvt
Higginsville, W. Va.

Valches, William D., Pvt
1618 W. 5th St., Texarkana, Tex.

Valencia, Jose J., Pvt
76 No. Oak St., Ventura, Calif.

Valozzi, Ernest E., Pfc, BS
RFD 4, Greensburg, Pa.

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509 E. Spring St., La Grange, Ind.

Wagers, Graden C., Pfc
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207 1-2 Main St., Kewanee, Ill.

Wasankari, Stanley G., Pvt
RFD 1, Fort Angeles, Washington

Washabaugh, Walter R., Pvt
Alleghany, Calif.

Weber, Curtis L., S/Sgt
RR 1, Moundville, Mo.

Weber, Ralph H., Lt
Lincoln, Nebr.

Weeks, Bernard H., Pfc
1624 Capistrano Ave., Glendale, Calif.

Wegehaupt, Walter A., T/4
Mt. Vernon, S. Dak.

Weimer, Raymond H., Pfc
Salisbury, Mo.

Weissman, Harry, Lt
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White, Donald E., Pfc
Elmira, N. Y.

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Likely, Calif.

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Wong, Harry G. L., Pvt
PO Box 35, Locke, Calif.

Wood, Harry R., Pfc
Rockford, Iowa

Woodard, Donald M., Pvt
Caro, Mich.

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7th Ave., Norway, Mich.

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Roundup, Montana

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21666 Garfield, Northville, Mich.

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Rte. 1, Mendon, Mo.

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Zupp, Daniel A., Pvt
304 15th St., Campbell, Ohio

Zwaschka, Roman G., S/Sgt, BS

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612 W. 48th St., New York, N. Y.

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Riverside Dr., Redbank, N. Y.

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Rte. 1, Grandprairie, Texas

Allred, Joe H., Pfc
Rte. 1, Airy, N. C.

Allsbrooks, Bufford W., Pfc
Rte. 1, Vanleer, Tenn.

Amenoola, Dionisio J., Pvt
620 E. 15th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Anastasion, Gerald J., Pvt
188 S. Main St., New Brittain, Mass.

★Oak Leaf Cluster to award.

- Anderson, Harold L., Pfc
Black Earth, Wisc.
- Anderson, Jack R., S/Sgt
814 G St., Sacramento, Calif.
- Arnett, Reese J., Pfc
Salversville, Ky.
- Aslin, Jewel F., T/Sgt
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- Auld, Raymond J., T/5, BS
Address unknown
- Ayres, Lawrence S., Pfc
116 1-2 15th Ave., N.,
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- Bailey, Byron E., Pvt
Gen. Del., Renton, Wash.
- Bailey, J. D., Pvt
Rte. 3, Salisbury, N. C.
- Baker, Frank A., Pfc
Heaton, N. C.
- Baker, Troy J., Pfc, BS
Hamilton, Ohio
- Ball, Scatt R., Pfc
Mt. Sterling, N. C.
- Barclay, John D., Cpl
435 Cucamonga Ave.,
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- Bartlett, Joseph D., Pfc
Rte. 5, Clinton, Mo.
- Barton, Robert W., T/4
2718 Stevens Ave.,
Minneapolis, Minn.
- Baughman, Harold G., Pvt
Rte. 2, Osseo, Mich.
- Beard, Robert D., Pfc
Rte. 2, Box 36, Lyles, Tenn.
- Beck, Walter W., Pvt
6223 Mulberry St.,
Philadelphia, Pa.
- Beckham, James H., Pfc
Rte. 3, Lutts, Tenn.
- Beckler, Edward P., Pfc, BS
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- Benadom, Frank W., Pvt
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- Billings, Dennis L., Pfc
3608 Elm S. E., E. Chicago,
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- Blythe, Charles W., Jr., Pvt
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- Borgardt, David, Pvt
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- Boss, Murray, Pvt
2941 N. 22d St., Philadelphia,
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- Bostjancic, Frank J., Cpl
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- Bradley, Francis W., Pfc
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- Braunstein, Paul, Sgt, BS
1535 Ocean Ave., Brooklyn,
N. Y.
- Briscoe, Elton A., Cpl.
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Calif.
- Brower, Clinton B., Pfc
Bateville, Miss.
- Brown, Harry L., 1stLt, DSC
Box 474, Henrietta, Texas
- Bruner, Daniel W., Pvt
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- Brunkenhoefer, August W., Pfc
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- Brusseau, Raymond W., Pfc
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Mich.
- Bruzas, John E., Pvt
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825 Lockwood, Royal Oak,
Mich.
- Bunn, Oris L., T/Sgt, BS
Box 163, Sumnor, Ill.
- Burdick, Howard W., Pvt
215 Blandina St., Utica,
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- Burris, Robert P., Jr., Sgt, BS
Cobden, Ill.
- Burton, Samuel L., Pvt
708 E. Dale, Springfield, Mo.
- Byers, Charles T., T/5, BS
Downs, Kans.
- Bynun, Arwin D., Pfc
328 Virginia St., Vallejo,
Calif.
- Campagna, Samuel S., Sgt
367 Chestnut St., San
Francisco, Calif.
- Camper, Abraham L., Pfc
Rte. 5, Ottumwa, Iowa
- Canhon, John F., Pvt
1767 96th St., Brooklyn,
N. Y.
- Carlino, Nicholas V., Pvt
219 E. Hector St.,
Conchonoken, Pa.
- Carlson, William, A. Pvt
Luverne, Minn.
- Carrera, Peter V., Pvt
643 1st St., Richmond, Cal.
- Carson, Neil B., Pfc
Rte. 3, Thayer, Kans.
- Carter, Henry A., Pvt
303 W. Wilson, Clinton, Mo.
- Carter, John M., Pfc
Rte. 2, Grossett, Ark.
- Carter, Johnnie H., S/Sgt
414 Edgefield, Longview,
Tex.
- Carty, Joseph L., Pfc
Simmons, Mo.
- Caskey, Elbert, Pvt
2721 Montgomery Ave.,
Ashland, Ky.
- Casper, Edward L., Pfc
100 Jones St., Mt. Clemens,
Mich.
- Chavez, Guadalupe, Pvt
2010 Coleman St., Corpus
Christi, Texas
- Chenault, Donald W., Pvt
1381 Rialto Ave., San
Bernardino, Calif.
- Cirinesi, Christopher S., Pfc
4798 Fischer Ave., Detroit,
Mich.
- Cischke, Francis H., Pfc
3949 Shoemaker, Detroit,
Mich.
- Clardy, Elmer L., Sgt
144 Pilgrim St., Highland
Park, Mich.
- Clark, T. J., Sgt, BS
100 S. 16th St., Lawton,
Okla.
- Coffey, William D., Pfc
919 Slinro Ave., Silver
Springs, Md.
- Colvin, Claude, Sgt
3921 7th St., N. W.,
Washington, D. C.
- Cook, Joseph, S/Sgt
Box 112, Cadi'z, Ohio
- Copeland, Robert D., Lt
Mitchell, La.
- Corrieri, Guiseppi R., Pfc
327 E. 113th St., New York,
N. Y.
- Costa, Phillip V., S/Sgt
1110 Franklin St., Modesto,
Calif.
- Culillo, Stephen, Pvt
1122 Main Ave., Clifton,
N. J.
- Curry, Charles B., Cpl
1332 Stanley St., Long
Beach, Calif.
- Curtiss, Stanley M., S/Sgt., SS
1026 Prospect Ave., Olympia,
Wash.
- Cusano, Terai F., Pvt
2217 E. 177th St., New York,
N. Y.
- Cypher, Phillip E., Pvt
Marwood, Pa.
- Czarnotta, Frank J., Pvt
Jackson, Calif.
- Czupryk, Joseph, Pfc
Broadbalbin, N. Y.
- Dailey, Robert E., Pfc, BS
Rte., 1, Troy, Idaho
- Danieley, Billy C., Pvt
124 Mercer St., Princeton,
W. Va.
- Danilovich, William G., Pvt
N. Main St., Jackson, Calif.
- Danner, Robert A., Pvt
Rte., 3, Macon, Mo.
- Daugherty, Jack A., Pvt
Rte. 3, Cole Camp, Mo.
- Davis, Coil, Pvt
Gen. Del., Las Vegas, Nev.
- Davis, Samuel N., Pfc., BS
1004 Washington Street,
Delphos, Ohio
- Dazzi, Mario, Pfc, BS
Box 93, McCloud, Calif.
- DeDominicis, Michael A., Pvt
2475 Belmont Ave., New
York, N. Y.
- Deitz, Henry E., Pvt
7 Grand St., Port Jervis,
N. Y.
- Delear, William N., Pfc
Sialps Rd., Rte. 1, Little
Falls, N. J.
- Dement, Wilfred C., Pfc
Elkton, Oregon
- Dennis, Charles, Sgt, BS
702 S. 3d Ave., Phoenix,
Ariz.
- Depew, Eugene F., Pfc
837 E. Main St., Troy, Pa.
- Dick, Paul T., Pfc
Roaring Spring, Pa.
- Dollins, James A., Pfc
Siloam Springs Road, W.
Palins, Mo.
- Dolmatowitz, John, Pfc, BS
15 Essey St., New York,
N. Y.
- Donadiev, Richard E., Sgt
2728 N. 13th St.,
Philadelphia, Pa.
- Doolan, Joseph D., Pvt
117 Bethje St., Houston,
Texas
- Dosien, Phillip R., Cpl
Bentley, Kans.
- Dowdy, Deward Jr., Pfc
Rte., 2, Buford, Ga.
- Doyle, William C., Pfc
516 S. Shippen St.,
Lancaster, Pa.
- Dozema, Jacob, Sgt
1010 Gibson St., Grand
Rapids, Mich.
- Draney, Thomas M., Capt, BS
5712 Kensington Ave.,
Richmond, Va.
- Drown, Robert E., Pvt
861 Foothill Blvd., La
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★Oak Leaf Cluster to award.

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Cleveland, Tenn.

Durst, Howard R., Pfc
Rte., 2, Swanton, Md.

England, Lytle Jr., Pfc
Cherryville, Md.

Esposito, Luciano C., Pvt
127 Mott St., New York,
N. Y.

Evans, James Y., Pvt
Ennice, N. C.

Evans, Joe M., Jr., Capt SS
1901 E. Rio Grande, El Paso,
Texas

Eyherabide, Stephen P., Lt. SS
1329 Niles St., Bakersfield,
Calif.

Ezkaj, John F., Pfc
100 Chamber St., Newark,
N. J.

Feaster, Daryl A., Sgt
Spencer, Iowa

Feenstra, Rene, Pvt
1101 Alpine Ave., Grand
Rapids, Mich.

Felling, Leander M., Sgt
Rte., 2, Box 86, Belgrade,
Minn.

Ferguson, Edward P., Pvt
21 Walnut St., Dayton, Ky.

Ferrell, Joseph W., Sgt
Rte., 2, Minnehkah, Okla.

Fickenscher, John H., Pfc
2603 Maryland Ave., Balti-
more, 18, Md.

Figeira, Manuel E., Sgt
1306 82d Avenue, Oakland,
Calif.

Figge, Bernard H., Pvt
417 W. 34th St., Kansas
City, Mo.

Finkelman, Irving, Pfc
25 Gouverneur St., New
York, N. Y.

Fishler, Charles A., Pfc., BS,
Box 532, Lamar, Colo.

Foile, James E., Pvt
Mt. Pleasant, N. C.

Ford, Alvin E., T/4
Cenoel Tollison, Ariz.

Forgione, Frank J., Pfc
85 Orient Ave., Jersey City,
N. J.

Forrest, John D., Pfc., BS
Ponchatoula, La.

Foster, Jack F., Pfc
6708 Hiawatha, Chicago,
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Fredette, William A., Pfc
West Moreland, N. H.

Freitas, Harold, Pvt
1221 Seminary Ave.,
Oakland, Calif.

Friscia, Patsy J., Pfc
103 Clinton Ave., Brooklyn,
N. Y.

Frost, Herbert W., Sgt
1223 Main St., Delano, Calif.

Gabel, Andrew J., Pfc
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Galloway, Henry J., Pvt
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Galliot, John F., Sgt
198 Pike St., Carbondale, Pa.

Gamez, Richard V., Pvt
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Box 92, Raymond, Wash.

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2816 Chestnut, Everett,
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Hammond, Ellis L., Pfc
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Hancey, William E., S/Sgt
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Hatcher, Lewis A., Cpl., BS
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1119 W. St., Pueblo, Colo.

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Rapids, Mich.

Hedrick, Albert J., Cpl
204 E. Delaware Ave.,
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Helferstay, Clarence Leroy, T/4
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Hellard, John W., Pvt
Rte. 1, Danville, Ky.

Helton, John W., Pfc
Shorterville, Ala.

Henry, Wilson J., Pvt
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Herman, Frederick W., Pfc
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Hoffman, Carl, Pfc
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Hoffman, Garfield R., Pvt
Elizabethville, Pa.

Hollar, Floyd D. A., Pfc
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Hollis, Robert H., Jr., Pfc
411 S. Perry St.,
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Hoogerhyde, Peter J., Pvt
1245 Leonard St., N. W.,
Grand Rapids, Mich.

Hooker, Herman J., Pfc
Rte. 1, Mt. Airy, N. C.

Hoover, Roy L., Pfc
Rte. 6, Statesville, N. C.

Horton, Edward R., Pfc
Star Rte., Valley Mills, Tex.

Howard, Victor E., Lt., BS
Rte. 1, Box 363, Kerman,
Calif.

Hughes, Robert, Pfc
Grant St., Slatedale, Pa.

Hurford, Ray C., Pvt
Rte. 1, Reese, Mich.

Hyde, Jess L., Pfc
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Iverson, Theodore M., Pvt
Fosston, Minn.

Jackson, James H., Sr.,
Silver Creek, Rome, Ga.

Jacob, James Z., S/Sgt
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Jamer, John J., Pfc
1622 Julian St., Chicago, Ill.

Jeffery, Harold R., T/5
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Jeniskis, Michael, Pfc
1117 Blair Ave., Scranton 8,
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Jenkins, Howard S., Pfc., BS
Address Unknown

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Johnson, Ralph V., Lt
Millington, Ill.

Johnson, Raymond K., Lt
4725 W. McLean Ave.,
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Johnson, Robert R. D., Lt
2950 DuPont, N.
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Jolly, David M., Pfc., BS
Rte. 2, Marion, N. C.

Jones, Albert W., Pvt
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Jones, Eldridge J., Pfc
Gen. Del., Avila, Calif.

★Oak Leaf Cluster to award.

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Box 746, San Angelo, Tex.
- Jones, William C., Pvt
101 W. State St.,
Wellsville, N. Y.
- Joyner, Jiles C., Pfc., BS
Rte. 2, Winston Salem, N. C.
- Kabel, Raymond C., T/5
R.F.D., 13, Mt. Washington,
Cincinnati, Ohio
- Kacprzak, Leon V., S/Sgt.
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- Kakota, Joseph J., Pvt
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- Kay, Monford C., Pfc
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- Keblysek, Richard P., Pfc
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Rte. 2, Sylvia, Tenn.
- Leggett, Aaron C., Pfc., BS
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Ill.
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- McCormick, George D., Pvt
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Rte. 3, Marion, Ind.
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- McGhee, Robert J., Lt
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- Mankiewicz, Leonard J., Pfc BS
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- Matile, Kenneth J., Pfc
R.F.D., 1, Americus, Kans.
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Rice, Edgar, Pfc
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- Slone Ed, Pvt
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- Smith, Ewel D., 1stSgt
Markham, Texas
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1207 W. H Place, Los
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Kelley, Connie C., Cpl
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Lindsey, Charles S., Pfc
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Gen. Del., Elizabeth, N. C.
Luna, Beecher M., Pfc
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Calif.
Paxley, Dempsey D., Pfc
Clopton, Ala.
Person, Percy A., T/5
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Piazza, Alfred D., Sgt
28 West St., Petaluma, Cal.
Pierce, James R., Pfc
Rte. 1, Butlerville, Ind.

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Runyon, William N., 1stLt
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Oakland, Calif.
Salinas, Selo, Pfc
Jefferson Ave., Seguinte Tex.
Schlecht, Wayne E., T/4
706 N. 8th St., Norfolk, Neb.
Shank, Raymond M., Pfc
296 Jefferson Ave., York,
Pa.

Shelby, John T., Cpl
Rte. 1, Duck River, Tenn.
Simmons, Bernard C., Cpl
Gen. Del., Swea City, Iowa
Simon, George, Pfc
113 Godwin St., Patterson,
N. J.
Smedbron, Lloyd N., S/Sgt., BS
Nekoosa, Wisc.
Smith, Alvin L., Pfc
306 Woodward Ave.,
Kalamazoo, Mich.
Smith, Phillip, C., Jr., Pfc
Rte. 4, Box 67, Renton,
Wash.
Smith, William, Pfc
Gen. Del., Anna, Ill.
Storrusten, Orbin O., T/5
Rte. 3, Fosston, Minn.
Sweigart, William R., Pfc
Gen. Del., Belleville, Pa.
Smith, William O., Pvt., BS
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Minn.
Tysinger, Sidney F., Pfc
Rte. 2, Asheboro, N. C.
Velande, Anthony A., Pfc
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Wendt, Vernon F., Pfc
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Battery C

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Olivia, N. C.
Bautch, Ernest P., Cpl
Rte. 3, Arcadia, Wisc.
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Gen. Del., Waconia, Minn.
Bennett, Fred R., Pvt., BS
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Bray, Frank W., T/5
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Brown, Alexander, Pfc
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Check, Max E., Sgt., BS
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Cook, Charlie H., T/4, BS
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Cooke, Dorman G., Pfc., BS
Rte. 1, Blowing Rock, N. C.
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Durdette, Richard E., Cpl
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Elkhorn, Neb.
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Holbay, Joseph M., Jr., Pfc
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Webster, S. Dak.
Hunt, Bud L.,
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Jennings, Jack G., Pfc
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King, Alton, Pfc
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Minn.
McKinsey, Fred, Pfc
Scotland Neck, N. C.
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Star Rte., Hempstead, Tex.
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907 4th St., Bakersfield, Cal.
Nex, Jesse W., Pfc
Rte. 2, Blairsville, Ga.

★Oak Leaf Cluster to award.

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351

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3144 S. 9th Pl., Milwaukee,
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Parks, Robert S., Pfc
Johnstown, Ga.
Paavola, Waino A., T/4
229 1-2 Fifth St., S. W.,
Chisholm, Minn.
Pintek, John J., Cpl
9163 Bray Rd., Rte., 1, Clio,
Mich.
Powers, Joseph C., Pfc
Rte. 2, Mayfield, Ky.
Reich, Leo D., Pfc
Waubay, S. Dak.
Ritek, Chester J., Pvt
814 Damon St., Flint, Mich.
Rodriguez, Robustiano, Pvt
320 W. Van Buren St.,
Harlingen, Texas
Rohloff, Arno L., T/5
Rte. 1, Ft. Ripley, Minn.
Sandoval, Florencio G., Pfc
San Vaidro, N. Mex.
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W. Va.
Schelp, Raymond, Cpl
Concordia, Mo.
Schooley, Gilford E.
Opolis, Kans.

Shatzer, Warren M., Pvt
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Maine
Silas, Ralph, Pvt
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Smith, John B., 1stLt
Livingston, Ala.
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Contreras, Miguel
Potast, Texas
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Cooper, Virgil
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*Oak Leaf Cluster to award.

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Smith Sub Div., Winter
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Worrell, Charlie F.
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Oil Hill, Kan.

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Rte. 1, River Falls, Wisc.

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Cottage Hill, Fla.

Brown, Wilbur H.
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Buchanan, Clifton J.
Grandview, Idaho

Buchanan, J. C.
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Castille, Dernas
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Collins, Robert J.
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★Oak Leaf Cluster to award.

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- Cope, Ross N.
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- Davlin, John H.
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- De George, John
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- Delbridge, William, BS
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- Dosey, Stanley F., BS**
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- Duncan, James H.
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- Egemo, Truman M.
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- Filippini, Ernest
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- Flores, Ronaldo F.
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- Flug, Albert
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- Goram, James E.
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- Griffen, Howard
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- Hassler, Harvey L.
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- Hayes, Robert C.
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- Hernandez, Frank
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- Hiltunen, Emil J.
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- Hirt, Ernest R., BS
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- Holley, Marvin
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- Howard, Johnnie
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- Huff, Leo W. BS
Address Unknown
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White Sulphur Springs,
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- Humbolt, Cornelius W. Jr.
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- Hunsaker, Leroy
Star Rte., Ririe, Idaho
- Iwers, Joe H.
Address Unknown
- Jackson, Chester
206 S. 5th St., DeSoto, Mo.
- Jenkins, Louis
Woodbine, Iowa
- Johnson, Ed
Gen. Del., Wynnewood, Okla.
- Johnson, Haynes H.
Rte. 2, Webber Falls, Okla.
- Johnson, William
915 14th Court, De Moines,
Iowa
- Karskuska, William
176 Adrain Ave.,
Newington, Conn.
- Kein, Harold L.
Rte. 2, Oak Harbor, Ohio
- Keirse, James D.
Rte. 3, Ragerville, Tenn.
- Kiba, Joe
Robinete, W. Va.
- Koch, Herman
621 St. Louis St., DeSoto,
Mo.
- Kroitor, Alexander, BS
6414 Kenilworth, Dearborn,
Mich.
- La Comb, William J., BS*
715 W. 13th St., Medford,
Ore.
- Leedham, Samuel H.
8535 Santa Fe Ave., Los
Angeles, Calif.
- Lentz, Marion L.
4409 W. Morris St.,
Indianapolis, Ind.
- Lreman, Loren J.
311 N. 6th, York, Neb.
- Lrigel, Raymond E.
Plain, Wis.
- Luby, Howard P.
Zimmerman, Wis.
- McCall, Douglas V.
Rte. 2, Stedman, N. C.
- McColn, Charles M.
No. 84th Circle, Pittsburg,
Kan.
- McManus, Charles E.
3011 Frederick St.,
Shreveport, La.
- Makela, Eugene O.
320 E. 43d St., Duluth, Minn.
- Maynard, Elliott R.
63 Maple St., Rouses Point,
N. Y.
- Milks, Clayton
RFD 2, Hettinger, N. Dak.
- Miller, Milton F.
605 Bluff St., Dubuque,
Iowa
- Moen, Duane T.
3625 Stevens Ave.,
Minneapolis, Minn.
- Moore, Melvin
4223 Ivanhoe Ave.,
Baltimore, Md.
- Morton, Daniel H.
2925 Penn Ave., Washington,
D. C.
- Mull, Thad C.
RFD 1, Fletcher, N. C.
- Mullins, Stuart A.
4708 West Bay Ave.,
Baltimore 25, Md.
- Murri, Jess H.
445 W. 8th N., Salt Lake
City, Utah
- Nash, Kenneth A.
337 Bridgeport Ave., Devon,
Conn.
- Olsen, Irving
Rte. 2, Kenmore, Hicksville,
L. I., N. Y.
- Ortiz, Uvence
Gen. Del., Mucedas, Tex.
- Otto, Earle W.
6204 S. Clarent, Chicago,
Ill.
- Owens, Clyde E.
Junction City, Ky.
- Payton, George B.
Newcastle, Ky.
- Pires, John, BS
209 26th Ave., San Matro,
Calif.
- Rand, Leo E.
Box 313, Milton, N. J.
- Regnier, Russell J., BS
507 S. 5th Ave., Kankakee,
Ill.
- Reichstein, Merle E.
Rte. 2, Box 13, Dayton, Ore.
- Reizer, Melbert
Decatur, Neb.
- Roberson, Oscar R., Jr.
Rte. 2, Elida, N. Mex.
- Rosasco, Raymond
1530 Clintonville, Whitestone,
N. Y.
- Rusconi, Ishmaele A., BS
Address Unknown
- Scarpone, Claudio
71 Edwards St., Hartford,
Conn.
- Schneiedler, Peter A.
1737 N. 21st St.,
Milwaukee, Wis.
- Schuckert, Joseph
2651 Fulton St., Dubuque,
Iowa
- Schwarz, Leonard F.
4822 Cadillac, Detroit, Mich.
- Schwarzrock, Kenneth
45 O'Connell Ave.,
Springfield, Minn.
- Selden, Howard
Gen L'Anse, Mich.
- Sherwood, Edson M.
307 Lanzdon, Piqua, Ohio

★Oak Leaf Cluster to award.

Shewey, Joe
Rte. 2, Buffalo, Mo.
Simone, Louie
123 Ohio, Oswego, Kan.
Smith, Frederick R.
Gen Del., Stantonville, Tenn.
Spillman, Charles
3600 S. Noland Rd., Rte., 5,
Independence, Mo.
Stecher, Adolph, BS
3167 S. Bannock, Englewood,
Colo.
Stover, James C., BS
Address Unknown
Stokes, William A.
511 N. Vine St., Santa
Maria, Calif.
Suggs, Bemus
RFD 1, Meridian, Miss.
Thompson, William L.
5024 44th S., Seattle Wash

Tozi, John J.
Box 643, Jackson, Calif.
Travis, Feltner
Rte. 5, Paducah, Ky.
Triviso, Edward B.
Box 143, Silver City, N. M.
Tubbs, Kenneth
Gen. Del., Montevideo, Minn.
Underwood, James R.
Rte. 1, Pendergrass, Ga.
Veit, Cecil T.
Hamel, Minn.
Verdoes, Bert
Edgerton, Minn.
Versailles, Raymond
Box 349, Lake Linden, Mich.
Vorge, Charles
Haynes Ave., Moberly, Mo.
Walker, Charles O.
Gen. Del., Pawnee City,
Neb.

Walker, Warren P., BS
56 RFD, El Dorado, Kans.
Wallace, Harold L.
341½ Bryan St., Bryan,
Ohio
Ward, Lee R., Jr.
Bogier, Ala.
Wasielewski, Edmund, BS
Address Unknown
Werner, Roy W.
2115 33d St., Astoria, L. I.,
N. Y.
Wilson, Claude L.,
216 W. Duvall St., Live Oak,
Fla.
Wilson, Glenn
Rte. 1, Rolla, Mo.
Young, Melvin J.
Wells, Minn.
Zentner, Emmett J.
Weslboro, Wis.
Zimmerman, Virgil L.
Rte. 1, Eldorado, Kans.

★Oak Leaf Cluster to award.

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